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CONFIDENTIAL.

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PART VI.



## FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

## AFFAIRS OF ARABIA.

January to March 1906.

27



## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
1	Sir N. O'Connor	3	Jan. 2, 1906	Yemen. Proposals of Honorary Turkish Consul in Paris for the construction of a railway starting from Hodeidah. Suggests that inquiries should be made in Paris concerning .. ..	1
2	India Office	..	7.	Koweit. Transmits extract from Diary of Persian Gulf Political Residency, reporting visit of R.L.M.S. "Investigator" ..	1
3	"	..	9.	Koweit. Transmits letters relative to Captain Knox's reception at .. ..	2
4	"	..	9.	Bahrain. Transmits letter from Political Agent at Bahrain relative to the Treaty obligations of Sheikh of Bahrain ..	4
5	"	..	11.	Nejd affairs. Transmits extract from Diary of Political Resident in Persian Gulf concerning .. ..	4
6	Sir N. O'Connor	7 Confidential	3.	El Kotif. Transmits report by His Majesty's Consul at Buscrah on situation in ..	5
7	"	8 Confidential	6.	Rising in the Yemen. Orders have been given for the dispatch of 8,000 fresh troops .. ..	6
8	"	14	9.	Rising in the Yemen. Defeat of Ahmed Feiz Pasha at Shehars .. ..	6
9	"	15 Secret	10.	Yemen. Transmits despatch from Colonel Surtess, reporting that 8,000 fresh troops have been sent for .. ..	7
10	India Office	..	17.	Steam-launch for Political Agent at Koweit. Transmits letter from Major Cox supporting the proposal .. ..	8
11	"	..	17.	Aden hinterland. Transmits correspondence from Government of India relative to ..	10
12	"	..	19.	Muscat Arbitration Award. Transmits copy of telegram from Viceroy, dated 2nd January, relative to Proclamation by the Sultan of Muscat in order to give effect to the findings of The Hague Tribunal concerning grant of the French flag to Muscat dhows .. ..	12
13	"	..	25.	Muscat Arbitration Award. Transmits correspondence between Major Grey and Political Resident in Persian Gulf, relative to French protégés .. ..	13
14	"	..	30.	Aden hinterland. Transmits telegrams to and from Government of India relative to Turkey and Habshan. Turks have not actually entered Habshan, but have invited Sheikh to make friendship .. ..	16
15	Sir F. Bertie	40 Confidential	Feb. 1.	Proposal for railway construction in the Yemen. Refers to No. 1. Gives information regarding M. Elie Léon and M. Zabonowski .. ..	17
16	Sir N. O'Connor	45	Jan. 23.	Turkish troops in Yemen. Refers to No. 8. Transmits despatch from Colonel Surtess. Turkish defeat near Samra of less gravity than at first announced .. ..	17

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

iii

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
17	Sir N. O'Connor	49 Confidential	Jan. 30, 1906	Koweit-Buscrah relations. Transmits despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Buscrah. Sheikhs are on much more friendly terms .. ..	18
18	India Office	..	Feb. 5.	Aden hinterland. Transmits telegram from Viceroy of 3rd February reporting restlessness in, owing to attempt of Turkish Government to collect revenue from Shu-jalla tribesmen .. ..	19
19	To India Office	..	8.	Muscat Arbitration Award. Refers to No. 12. Proposes measures as to British policy in Muscat .. ..	19
20	India Office	..	8.	Murder of Bahraini by the Bahali tribe. Suggests that case be dropped .. ..	20
21	Sir N. O'Connor	57 Confidential	6.	Koweit. Refers to No. 16. Recommends caution in providing a steam-launch for Political Agent at .. ..	22
22	"	76	7.	Yemen. Slight disaster to Riza Pasha's forces. Despatch from Military Attaché ..	23
23	"	81	7.	Aden delimitation. Reports conversation with Minister for Foreign Affairs. Thinks it undesirable to press for definite limit ..	23
24	India Office	..	13.	Trucial flag at Bahrain. Transmits correspondence between Government of India and Political Agent in the Persian Gulf concerning .. ..	24
25	"	..	14.	Muscat Arbitration Award. Refers to No. 13. Transmits papers and telegrams from Government of India proposing that Sultan of Muscat should not recognise certain French protégés as subjects of Sultan of Zanzibar. Mr. Morley deprecates such action, and proposes that an arrangement should be come to with French Consul .. ..	27
26	Sir N. O'Connor	87	12.	Hodja and Yemen Vilayets. Transmits Report from His Majesty's Consul at Jeddah for last quarter of 1905 ..	29
27	"	94	13.	Rising in the Yemen. Transmits despatch from Military Attaché reporting on Turkish military operations .. ..	34
28	"	98	13.	Carmelite schools at Bagdad. Transmits despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General reporting offer by German Consul to subsidize the schools if they would undertake to teach German .. ..	34
29	India Office	..	22.	Steam-launch for British Resident at Koweit. Refers to No. 21. Transmits telegram to Government of India stating that His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople sees no objection to provision of a launch, but deprecates establishment of a coal depot at the same time .. ..	35
30	"	..	22.	Muscat Arbitration Award. Transmits telegram to Government of India giving conclusions of His Majesty's Government regarding the status of subjects of Sultan of Muscat .. ..	35
31	"	..	23.	Nejd. Transmits copy of a letter from Government of India relative to visit of Wahabi Amir to Pirate Coast and Muscat, with remarks on danger attending visit ..	36



No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
32	Sir N. O'Connor ..	100	Feb. 19, 1906	Murder of Bahreinise by the Behah tribe. Refers to No. 20. Suggests that matter be allowed to drop .. ..	42
33	To India Office ..	..	27.	Muscat Arbitration Award. Refers to No. 24. Concurs in reply to be sent to Government of India as to, and relative to certain French protégés at Zanzibar ..	42
34	India Office ..	..	27.	Aden-Dhala Railway. Transmits letters from Resident at Aden reporting on project .. ..	43
35	" ..	..	28.	Aden delimitation. Refers to No. 23. Mr. Morley is prepared to acquiesce in Sir N. O'Connor's view that it is sufficient to establish the identity of maps .. ..	44
36	To India Office ..	..	Mar. 1.	Murder of Bahreinise by the Behah tribe. Concurs in views expressed in No. 32 ..	44
37	" ..	..	1.	Proposed visit of Wahabi Amir to Pirate Coast and Muscat. Refers to No. 31. Letter has been sent to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople ..	44
38	Admiralty ..	..	Feb. 28.	Visit of His Majesty's ship "Prometheus" to Bas Imran. Transmits report of from Commander, with account of state of village .. ..	42
39	The Earl of Cromer ..	20 Secret	21.	Hedjaz Railway. Branch to Akaba to start from Medawara. German surveyors. Five battalions of troops south of Ma'an ..	43
40	Sir N. O'Connor ..	190 Confidential	24.	Turkish operations in the Yemen. Refers to No. 77. Transmits summary of report drawn up by Military Commission at Yildiz .. ..	44
41	India Office ..	..	Mar. 6.	Koweit and Bahrein, tide gauges at. Transmits letter from Admiralty regarding advisability of .. ..	44
42	" ..	..	7.	Visit of Russian Agent at Lingah to Muscat. Transmits report of by Major Grey ..	45
43	" ..	..	8.	Muscat Arbitration Award. Transmits telegram to Government of India of 6th March. British and French Consuls are to concert together to draw up list of French protégés. Major Cox's proposal is therefore premature .. ..	46
44	To Sir N. O'Connor ..	96	8.	Aden delimitation. Refers to No. 35. Concurs in his view that it is unnecessary to press for a more formal ratification ..	47
45	To Sir N. O'Connor ..	132 Confidential	Feb. 28.	Turkish operations in the Yemen. Refers to No. 40. Friction between Commander-in-chief and Special Commission of Inspection. Commission is compelled to remain at Hodeidah. Telegram from Commander-in-chief to Grand Vizier ..	47
46	India Office ..	..	Mar. 13.	Visit of Wahabi Amir to Pirate Coast and Oman. Refers to No. 37. Transmits correspondence relative to .. ..	47
47	To India Office ..	..	13.	Koweit and Bahrein, tide gauges at. Refers to No. 41. Copy of their letter will be sent to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople. No objection to Government of India being consulted .. ..	49

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
48	India Office ..	..	Mar. 13, 1906	Muscat Arbitration Award. Transmits correspondence relative to steps for giving effect to .. ..	49
49	" ..	..	14.	Aden hinterland. Refers to No. 14. Transmits correspondence relative to reported Turkish action in Rubesten. Turks did not actually enter Rubesten, and Sheikh was instructed to reply to invitations that Rubesten is in British Protectorate ..	49
50	" ..	..	16.	Visit of Wahabi Amir to Pirate Coast and Oman. Refers to No. 46. Transmits telegram from Vicomte, proposing to authorize Major Cox to issue warning to Trucial Chiefs referred to in his letter of 4th February .. ..	50
51	To India Office ..	..	21.	Aden hinterland. Refers to No. 49. Approves action of Political Officer at Dhala ..	50
52	India Office ..	..	21.	Turkish Revenue official. Arrival of at Muscat causes unrest among Shujaifa tribe. Transmits correspondence from Foreign Secretary to Government of India ..	51
53	" ..	..	21.	Murder of Bahreinise by the Behah tribe. Refers to No. 36. Transmits correspondence relative to. Attitude of His Majesty's Government as to course to be pursued .. ..	52
54	" ..	..	21.	Muscat, finances of. Refers to No. 18. Transmits correspondence relative to. Indian Government proposes to advance to Sultan 20,000 rupees. Attitude of M. Laroche .. ..	52
55	" ..	..	22.	Abdall-Hanashahi relations and attack on British post at Nobat-Irakim. Transmits correspondence relative to ..	56
56	Sir N. O'Connor ..	179	19.	Koweit-Bussorah relations. Yusuf-el-Ibrahimi, instigator of attack on Koweit, is reported to have died in January ..	52
57	" ..	180 Confidential	20.	Proposed visit of Wahabi Amir to Pirate Coast. Refers to No. 37. Suggests that Amir should be met by a warship and warned directly not to tamper with engagements of Trucial Chiefs ..	52
58	India Office ..	..	24.	Visit of Wahabi Amir to Pirate Coast. Refers to No. 31. Proposes to authorize Major Cox to warn the Trucial Chiefs that the Government of India would not view visit with indifference .. ..	52
59	To India Office ..	..	29.	Muscat, finances of. Refers to No. 54. Concurs with view that there is no objection to advancing 20,000 rupees to Sultan .. ..	53
60	" ..	..	31.	Proposed visit of Wahabi Amir to Pirate Coast. Refers to No. 37. Transmits despatch from Sir N. O'Connor regarding. Agrees that direct warning to Amir will be more effective .. ..	53



CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Arabia.

PART VI.

[1002]

No. 1.

*Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 8.)*

(No. 3.)

Sir,

*Pera, January 2, 1906.*

SOME two months ago I received from a confidential source a report to the effect that the Honorary Turkish Consul in Paris, M. Elie Leon, had made formal proposals to the Porte for the construction of a railway in the Yemen which was to start from Hodeidah and pass through Jemilé to Sanaa and thence to Taiz and Assir and elsewhere. M. Leon's letter drew a glowing picture of the commercial, financial, strategic, and political advantages of such a line, and contained an application for permission to form an Ottoman Company to carry out the project under a concession for 99 years and with a kilometric guarantee of £ T. 850.

The scheme would appear to have attracted the Sultan's attention, for I learn now that an Iradé has been issued authorizing an engineer named Zabarovski to undertake preliminary surveys for a line as above described, and I am also told that M. Zabarovski represents the French group of capitalists in favour of whom M. Leon made his application.

It is very difficult here to obtain information as to the financial backing which such a project might find among French financiers, but if any means can be found of discovering what has really been done in the matter in Paris, and whether M. Leon has any serious financial support and the group which M. Zabarovski is said to represent contains financiers of standing, I think it would be useful to have such information and to place some British firm of standing connected with such enterprises in possession of the facts.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

[1244]

No. 2.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 10.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 30th November, 1905, relative to survey operations in the vicinity of Koweit.

Copy has been sent to the Admiralty.

*India Office, January 9, 1906.*

[1629]

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## Inclosure in No. 2.

*Extract from the Diary of the Persian Gulf Political Residency, for the week ending October 29, 1905.*

KOWEIT. 4th to 18th October. The R.L.M.S. "Investigator" arrived on the 9th October from Bushire. On the evening of the same day, Captain Heming paid a visit to Sheikh Mubarak. During this interview Captain Heming explained to the Sheikh the object of the "Investigator's" visit, and the latter cordially offered any help that may be required of him. The "Investigator" commenced survey operations in the vicinity of Koweit, some few miles from the harbour, on the 10th.

[1294]

No. 3.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 10.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 30th November, 1905, relative to the reception of Captain Knox on his return to Koweit, and information furnished to him regarding affairs in Central Arabia.

*India Office, January 9, 1906.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 3.

*Captain Trevor to Government of India.*

*Bushire, November 5, 1905.*

IN continuation of this Office letter dated the 27th October last, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter which I have received from the Political Agent, Koweit, on the subject of Sheikh Mubarak's attitude.

*Note.—Copy sent to Mr. F. E. Crow, His Majesty's Consul, Bassorah.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 3.

*Captain Knox to Major Cox.*

*Koweit, October 28, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I arrived at Koweit late in the evening of Wednesday, the 23th October, and took over charge of the Agency from Assistant Surgeon Dauder Rahman (in charge current duties) next morning.

2. I have had no reason to complain of my welcome on my return. At break of day on Thursday a messenger arrived to say that Sheikh Mubarak proposed to visit me, and the Sheikh followed hard at his heels. He was accompanied by his son Sheikh Jabir and Moola Abdullah, his Secretary. This was the beginning of a long stream of visitors of all ranks, who kept me busy all day receiving their visits and listening to the pleasant things they were good enough to say to me on my return. In the course of Thursday and Friday I think I must have seen everybody whose acquaintance I had made during my previous stay at Koweit.

3. I returned the Sheikh's visit on Friday morning, and he has just been round again to see me this morning, when the conversation turned on the present state of the political situation in the interior of Arabia. I give Sheikh Mubarak's version in the Appendix to this letter.

4. I trust that the very warm welcome which I have received may effectually dissipate any doubts that may have been raised as to Sheikh Mubarak's attitude towards the English referred to in recent reports from Bassorah.

## Appendix.

*Sheikh Mubarak's Description of Present State of Political Situation in the Interior of Arabia (October 1905).*

## 1. Hail and the Bin Rashid Family.

BIN RASHID is not strong even in Hail. Hamood, uncle of the present Chief and brother of Muhammad-bin-Rashid, holds charge, and in the recent fighting between the two factions four of his sons have been killed. These are named as follows:—

Maid,  
Salim,

Muhammad,  
Obeyd.

Three sons remain to him. The eldest is Sultan, who is at enmity with the rest of his family, and lives at Jof. He has recently been corresponding with Sheikh Mubarak.

The other two, Saood and Feysul, are with their father Hamood in Hail. Abdul Aziz-bin-Metaab, the Chief of the Bin Rashid family, has not resided at Hail for the past six years, but is constantly wandering in the desert.

The state of Hail (the town) is deplorable. The population now consists merely of Bin Rashid's soldiers, as all the usual inhabitants having no means of livelihood have dispersed to other towns, selling their household property to provide them with money for their journey.

## 2. State of Er-Riadh.

Abdur Rahman-bin-Feysul, the head of the Bin Saood family, is at Riadh. The town and district are prosperous. There is no truth in the story of a rising at Sedeyr against Bin Saood's power.

There are no Turkish soldiers nor representative in Er-Riadh.

## 3. State of El-Kasim.

Abdur Aziz-bin-Saood, the eldest son of the Chief and the man of action in the family, lies armed in Boreyda. There is a detachment of fifty Turkish soldiers in Boreyda and another of thirty in Aneyza. There are no civil representatives of Turkish power.

The main body are at Sheybich, five hours north-west of Boreyda. They number 600 with eight guns, but they are constantly being withdrawn. They originally numbered 7,000. They are under the orders of Feriq, Sadiq Pasha.

El-Kasim is prosperous. No Turkish customs have been established, and caravans come and go between Koweit and Nejd unmolested. A large one was dispatched from Koweit to Nejd five days ago. When asked what was his opinion of the general situation in the interior, Sheikh Mubarak replied that it was entirely satisfactory from the point of view of himself and his friends of the Bin Saood faction.

(Signed) S. G. KNOX, Captain,  
Political Agent, Koweit.

*Note.—I wish to emphasize the fact that none of the assertions in the above statement have been verified. The description of the Turkish troops sounds improbable.*

From another source, not usually favourable to Sheikh Mubarak, I hear that Bin Saood's people recently raided some tribes supposed to be well affected to Bin Rashid. Mubarak remonstrated with Bin Saood on the subject, pointed out the impolicy of unprovoked aggression, and threatened to withdraw his favour if such lawless proceedings continued. If this story had been brought me by an Arab, I should at once have dismissed it as concocted for my benefit by Sheikh Mubarak, but the position of my informant is such that this solution seems improbable.

(Signed) S. G. KNOX.



[1243]

No. 4.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 10.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 7th December, 1905, relative to the Treaty obligations of the Sheikh of Bahrein.

*India Office, January 9, 1906.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 4.

*Major Cox to Government of India.**Bushire, November 17, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the letter in which the Political Agent, Bahrein, reports having carried out the instructions of Government, conveyed in paragraph 3 of Foreign Department letter, dated the 27th September, 1905.

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

*Captain Prideaux to Major Cox.**Bahrein, November 3, 1905.*

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your indorsement, dated the 8th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I communicated to Sheikh Em-bin-Ali, at a friendly interview on the 1st instant, the orders of Government in the terms set forth in paragraph 3 of letter, dated the 27th September last, from the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department to your address.

2. After some conversation, in the course of which the Chief declared that he had not understood that the second paragraph of the Agreement of 1880 had been annulled by the Treaty of 1892, Sheikh Em finally promised that he would strictly adhere to his obligations under the later Treaty, and that in particular he would never again correspond directly with any of the neighbouring Turkish officials, but always through me.

3. At this interview my interpreter, Mr. Inam-ul-Hak, was the only other person present. At a subsequent interview on the same day with the Wasir of Bahrein, I informed Sheikh Abdul Rahman of the Chief's promise, and asked him always to bear it in mind.

[1518]

No. 5.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 12.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 7th December, 1905, relative to Nejd affairs.

*India Office, January 11, 1906.*

Inclosure in No. 5.

*Extract from the Diary of the Persian Gulf Political Residency for the week ending November 5, 1905.**Koweit.*

6. October 19 to 25, 1905.—Ibn Rashid is said to have raided a tribe of Uteyba, called Hamdania, and taken away a lot of booty. Both Abdul Aziz, Ibn Saud, and his brother Mohamed, are said to be at Kassim preparing to attack Ibn Rashid, who is stationed about a day's march from Kassim.

7. Twenty-five Turkish fugitive soldiers arrived on the 24th instant from Nejd. They state that Ibn Saud went to the Turkish camp at Shehiah, and told the Officer Commanding that if he had no hostile intentions against his party, he should shift his camp to between Aneyza and Porcida, but that if he had such intentions, he was quite prepared to meet him. Thereupon the Officer Commanding is said to have moved his camp. Report says that at present there are only about 800 men left with the Officer Commanding, the rest having either died or deserted. The men who arrived at Koweit are in a very miserable condition.

Supplies for the soldiers are said to arrive occasionally from Medina, and the men are kept on very low rations, which accounts for the large number of desertions. Kazem Pasha, the present Mushir of Bagdad, is said to have issued a Proclamation that all the deserters from Nejd, on returning to Bagdad, will be taken back into service without any punishment being inflicted on them. On learning this, many of the deserters, who had arrived in Koweit, left for Bagdad.

[1897]

No. 6.

*Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 15.)*

(No. 7. Confidential.)

Sir,

*Constantinople, January 3, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Bassorah reporting on recent events in Husa and Nejd, and stating that the Vali is making an attempt to send a steamer to make a local inspection at El Katif, where the oppressive conduct of the military commander has caused some trouble.

This account from Mr. Crow confirms in great measure the information as to the condition of El Katif, which I reported in my despatch No. 807 of the 14th November last as received from a confidential source.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

Inclosure in No. 6.

*Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.*

(No. 81. Confidential.)

Sir,

*Bassorah, December 9, 1905.*

THE Vali proposes to send one of the Hamidiyah river steamers "Bagdad" to the coast of Katif, Ojeir, and Katr in order to make a local inspection. An official, who will report on improvements required, is to accompany her as far as Katr. The Vali has asked the Seniye Commissioner at Bagdad by telegraph to inform him of the cost of dispatching the vessel.

The "Bagdad" is one of the old river steamers formerly belonging to the Osman Ottoman line, which was taken over by the Hamidiyah administration. I believe she is unworthy and ill-adapted for a cruise of this description, and I do not think she could undertake it.

Some trouble has been caused lately at Katif by the oppressive dealings of the commander of the troops and the Tabour Agassi, who are said to be partisans of Seyyid Talib Pasha.

These two officials seem to have been persecuting Haji Mansoor Pasha, the

[1529]

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head of the Seniye Department at Katif, who lately arrived in Bassorah with his companions to lodge a complaint against them. Haji Mansoor Pasha was accompanied by the new Kaimakum of Katif, who also appears to have suffered at the hands of the Tabour Agassi, and will not return to his post. The trouble arose from the support given by the Tabour Agassi to certain Government contractors at Katif in collecting high taxes. People were ill-treated, and formal complaints were made to the Vali.

I am also informed that the Mutessarif of Hassa is collecting money to build a guard-house somewhere between Ojeir and Hassa. The Tabour Agassi was commissioned to raise 4,000 dollars from the inhabitants of Katif for this purpose, but the people refused payment.

It is reported here that four battalions will proceed from Medina to Ghassim; 9,000 are required for their expenses, and the vilayets of Bagdad and Bassorah have been requested to provide that sum. The Vali of Bassorah is said to have replied that there was no money in the Bassorah treasury.

Yusuf-bin-Ibrahim, who appears to have gone to Mecca, has sent for his brother to join him, and the latter recently left Dora by sea to do so. Yusuf Ibrahim is said to be collecting horsemen and camelmen on behalf of Bin Reahid, and it is stated that Bin Saoud is also preparing to fight, and that there is some likelihood of further hostilities between them.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) F. CROW.

[1898]

No. 7.

Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 15.)

(No. 8. Confidential.)

Sir,

Constantinople, January 4, 1906.

INSTRUCTIONS which, as I learn from a secret source, have quite recently been given to the Minister of War to dispatch 8,000 fresh troops to the Yemen, where they are required by Marshal Feizi Pasha to keep the forces in the Yemen up to their full complement, would seem to indicate that apprehensions are entertained at the Porte of a recrudescence of the revolutionary movement in South-West Arabia, but as yet I have received no direct reports of impending troubles from His Majesty's Consular officers at Hodeidah and Jeddah.

These troops will be furnished from the Anatolian commands: 2,500 Redifs from the Second Army Corps, 1,000 from the Aidin Division of the 3rd Army Corps, both detachments to be shipped from Smyrna; 3,500 of the 4th Army Corps, who will embark at Black Sea ports, and 1,000 from the Adana command.

Instructions have been given to the Minister of Marine to prepare the vessels requisite for the transport of these troops.

Since writing the above I have learnt that there is a rumour current that Feizi Pasha has suffered a considerable reverse at the hands of Mahmoud Yahya, and it is even said that Sanaa is again in danger of being cut off from its communications with the coast.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

[1904]

No. 8.

Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 15.)

(No. 14.)

Sir,

Constantinople, January 9, 1906.

IN continuance of my despatch No. 8 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that it now seems certain that Ahmed Feizi Pasha has suffered a more or less serious defeat at the hands of the Yemen insurgents at a place called Shehara, and has been compelled to fall back to Omran, which is some hours distant to the north from Sanaa. He telegraphed to the Minister of War from that place, on the 4th instant, to the effect that in the course of his retreat he was attacked by the rebels

at Djebel-el-Yezid and Hashid, but succeeded after ten hours' fighting in beating them off with heavy loss. He intends to await the arrival of the 8,000 fresh troops which he has asked for, and will on their arrival make a fresh advance on Shehara, where the main forces of Mahmoud Yahya are concentrated.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

[1905]

No. 9.

Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 15.)

(No. 15. Secret.)

Sir,

Constantinople, January 10, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Colonel Surtees, Military Attaché to the Embassy, respecting operations in the Yemen, for the information of the Intelligence Division of the War Office.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Colonel Surtees to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 1. Secret.)

Sir,

Constantinople, January 5, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to report that it has been ascertained from a sure source that Feizi Pasha, who is in command of the Ottoman forces in the Yemen, has demanded reinforcements to the number of 8,000 fresh troops to bring his forces up to their full complement.

His Imperial Majesty the Sultan has approved of the dispatch to the Yemen of the following troops in compliance with the demands of Feizi Pasha, viz:—

From the Anatolian Redif Divisions of the 2nd Army Corps	.. .. .	2,500
From the Head-quarter Brigade of the Aidin Division of the 3rd Army Corps	.. .. .	1,000
(24th Redif Brigade)	.. .. .	1,000

(These 5,500 troops are to embark at Smyrna.)

From the Redif Divisions of the 4th Army Corps, which are located nearest to the Black Sea ports	.. .. .	3,500
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(These latter are to proceed direct from the Black Sea ports to Hodeidah without touching anywhere en route.)

From the "Adana Division" (38th Regimental District?)—of the conscription of 1903 and former years	.. .. .	1,000
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(These will probably embark at Alexandretta.)

The Ministers of Marine and Finance have received instructions respecting the detailing of transports and necessary expenses. The Minister of War has also been required to expedite the military arrangements.

The above facts would seem to indicate a recrudescence of the revolutionary movement in the Yemen, but for the moment no reports to such effect have been received from Hodeidah or Jeddah.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) H. CONYERS SURTEES, Colonel,  
Military Attaché.



[2201]

No. 10.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 18.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 14th December, 1905, relative to a request of the Political Agent at Koweit that he may be supplied with a steam-launch.

*India Office, January 17, 1906.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

*Major Cox to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Bushire, November 11, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the consideration of the Government of India, a copy of a communication addressed to me by the Political Agent at Koweit, in which he (1) asks that he may be supplied with a steam-launch; and (2) recommends the purchase from Sheikh Mubarak of a certain piece of foreshore in connection with the housing of the launch and on other grounds.

2. As regards the launch, I quite agree with Captain Knox that it is a desideratum, and trust that the Government of India will be pleased to entertain the proposal.

The second matter, that of the convenient deep-water anchorage, was discussed by me with Captain Heming of the Royal Indian mail-steamer "Investigator," on his arrival here a few weeks ago, and as the existence of this anchorage seemed to affect the question of the location of the projected Agency buildings for Koweit, I reserved it for discussion in that connection with Captain Knox on his arrival. This I did en route from Muhammarah a few days ago, and have addressed Government separately on the subject in this Office letter of to-day's date.

3. The piece of foreshore in question may be regarded as part of Bander-as-Shwaik, the fourth alternative site for the terminus of the projected railway mentioned in the recent report of Captain E. W. Mahon, R.E., for the information of the Defence Committee. I have little doubt therefore that the Government of India will generally concur as to the prudence and innocuousness of our acquiring rights over it, if that end can be achieved without attracting attention, and I accordingly commend the subject to their wise consideration.

4. As suggesting a temporary or preliminary alternative to that recommended by the Political Agent, I venture to revert to the correspondence (ending with Foreign Department indorsement dated the 4th October, 1905), regarding the acquisition of coaling facilities at Koweit by the British India Steam Navigation Company. It will be remembered that Sheikh Mubarak expressed his readiness to give the Company the desired accommodation and facilities. We might perhaps pursue that subject with the Sheikh and get the British Indian Steam Navigation Company to deposit a few hundred tons of coal at the spot in question as soon as practicable. This should be done by dhows from the present anchorage, so as not to make it evident to the public sooner than need be that steamers can approach close to the shore at the spot selected. The Political Agent could then say to the Sheikh that Government had provided him with a launch, and that he wanted to keep it near the British Indian Coal Store in order to have facility for supplying her with coal.

Inclosure 2 in No. 10.

*Captain Knox to Major Cox.**Koweit, November 6, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to invite your attention to the Preliminary Chart, Confidential, of the port of Koweit, prepared by Captain Heming, R.N., of the Royal India mail-steamer "Investigator."

2. The issue of this chart and conversation with Captain Heming have decided me

in making a formal application for the supply of a launch to this Agency to enable the Political Agent to visit any portion of the coast line under his charge and adjacent Islands of Faylaka and Bubiyan. The provision of a launch would also expedite the dispatch of mails to the British India steamers, which always require to leave this port without delay.

3. During the whole time I have been at Koweit, the want of a launch has made itself felt, but the difficulty of harbouring the vessel has hitherto prevented me from applying for one.

4. The information supplied by the new chart shows that this difficulty is purely imaginary. In front of the line of rocks adjacent to the words "overflow at H. W. Springs," point B (5 in/r), and directly east of the harbour of Shwaik, there is excellent deep water, thoroughly protected from all the prevalent winds of Koweit.

5. Captain Heming, in a report to the Director, Royal Indian Marine, dated Muscat, the 20th April, 1905, of which he has kindly permitted me to take a copy, has made the following remarks on the subject of this anchorage. I proceed to quote in *extenso*—

"Paragraph 6. An examination of the accompanying tracing\* will show the existence of a well-sheltered harbour, 2 or 3 miles south-west of Koweit, where boats could always lie, and, if a small pier were erected at the spot marked B, cargo could be landed in all weathers. It would be as easy to get from and to B to anchorage C as from A during a shamal, but the extra distance in calms or contrary winds would be a drawback, as would also be the transport from B to A, after the goods were first landed.

"I should like to point out the capabilities of the western harbour. It will be noticed from the tracing that there is a considerable area having a depth of from 25 feet to 30 feet, within a very short distance from the shore, from which convenient piers could be run out. From this deep water a narrow gut trends towards the anchorage C, but is barred from it by a ridge of shoal surroundings, 400 yards broad, carrying 12 feet to 13 feet at low water spring tides (marked I on tracing). The Marine Survey registered night and day tides from the 11th to the 30th March, inclusive, during which the highest high-water recorded above the datum to which the surroundings were reduced was 11 ft. 7 in., and the lowest 6 ft. 8 in.†

"From this it may be inferred that ships of 22 feet draught could enter the western harbour at springs and from 17 feet to 18 feet draught at all times of high water. The passage in could be made excessively easy by means of transit marks at no great expense. The close proximity of the deep water to the shore and the sheltered nature of the anchorage would make it invaluable as a coaling station for ships of moderate draught. I fear the cost of deepening the bar would be prohibitive, as the bottom is probably rock, though, judging from the outcrop on shore, I should infer, not very solid. Native divers were sent down, but beyond saying that the bottom was hard, they were of little use. Probing with a soft iron rod was then resorted to, but it would not penetrate, and in every case met with sufficient resistance to turn the point of the rod."

6. The extreme importance of this anchorage and the land immediately adjoining at once becomes evident, and I would ask that I may be favoured with sanction to enter into negotiations with Sheikh Mubarak for as much of the foreshore as he will part with to be bought outright by Government for the fair market rate per aiza.

7. The provision of a launch, erection of a landing jetty, signal staff, coal shed, and quarters for the crew—of whom four at least would be natives of India—would afford me a reasonable excuse for making this purchase of a considerable plot of land, the importance of which does not terminate by any means with the provision of a launch for the Political Agent, Koweit. In Captain Heming's view, this is the harbour of Koweit, and the proper site for a railway station, should a railway ever come to Koweit. It would, I submit, be a great political advantage to have a solid title to the most valuable site in Koweit which now lies desolate and apparently valueless.

8. To return to the details of the launch, I would propose that a launch 60 feet long, drawing not more than 6 feet of water, carrying sufficient coal for a voyage of 100 miles (50 miles there and 50 miles back) be provided. The launch should be fitted

\* Not printed.

† Captain Heming has kindly also favoured me with a spare copy of the Preliminary Chart on which he has marked the points A, B, and C referred to above. It is being forwarded to you under separate cover. If the report and tracing are, as is probable, available for reference, I shall be greatly obliged if this copy of the chart could be returned to me.—S. G. Knox.



with a distiller to provide water for steaming the launch and drinking water for the crew. Tanks should be fitted to hold a sufficient quantity of reserved distilled water to enable the boiler to be refilled after cleaning internally. The necessity for the distiller is due to the difficulty and expense of procuring a supply of good water at Kuwait, and especially at Shwaik, 2 or 3 miles further off.

9. The first desideratum, after the purchase of the ground and before even the launch was provided, would be the erection of a coal shed to allow storage room for 150 tons of coal, or a quarter's supply. For this a shed inside measurements 35 feet by 20 feet by 10 feet high would suffice. The walls should be 2 feet thick with an iron gate in the centre of the north wall, faced by a strong iron grating window in the south wall. Both would need to be protected by shelters from rain beating in and injuring the coal. The building would have to be constructed on a plinth of 2 feet above the level of the ground. Corrugated iron sheeting suggests itself as the most effective material for roof and shelters. This and the gate and barred window should, I think, come from India, but the plinth and walls could be constructed here locally from dead coral stone and juss at a cost of 1,200 rupees.

10. With regard to the remaining buildings, I hope that the supply of a launch would greatly reduce the cost of carriage of materials, and I have therefore not attempted to form any estimates for the present.

11. Should these proposals meet with your approval, I would ask that estimates for the coal shed might be asked for from the Public Works Department in India, so that the work may be taken in hand without delay as soon as the purchase of the ground has been arranged for and the supply of a launch sanctioned.

[2274]

No. 11.

*India Office to Foreign Office.--(Received January 18.)*

Sir,

*India Office, January 17, 1905.*

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to forward, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of correspondence received from the Government of India on the 8th instant relative to the Aden hinterland. It will be observed, from the letter of the Government of Bombay to the Resident at Aden of the 7th December, 1905, that the Political Officer at Dhalala has been instructed to ask for the withdrawal of certain policemen sent into Rubesten territory by the Kaimakam of Rada, who has also summoned the Rubesten Sheikhs to visit him without delay.

Mr. Morley has requested the Government of India to report by telegraph what action has been taken by the Political Officer, and at the same time to state their views on the question.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

*Government of Bombay to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Bombay Castle, December 7, 1905.*

I AM directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter from the Political Resident, Aden, dated the 18th November last, and of its inclosure, in which he reports the proceedings of the Turkish authorities of Rada with reference to Rubesten, one of the three districts referred to in the Aden Boundary Commissioner's *procès-verbal*, dated the 20th April last, as forming part of the Canton of Yaffa lying within the British Protectorate. I am also to attach a copy of the instructions issued thereon.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

*Political Resident, Aden, to Government of Bombay.*

(Confidential.)

*Aden Residency, November 18, 1905.*

IN forwarding, for the information of Government, copy of a letter, dated the 11th instant, received by me this week from the Political Officer at Dhalala, I have the

honour to invite reference to the marginally-noted correspondence,\* and to remark that it would appear, from the Boundary Commissioner's *procès-verbal* of the 20th April last, that the Uzle of Rubesten was then formally recognized as a portion of the Canton of Yaffa. The specific admission that Rubesten belongs to Yaffa is also referred to in paragraph 11 of Mr. Fitzmaurice's despatch to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, dated Perim, the 30th April last, as also in paragraph 12 of the same despatch.

2. From the marginally-noted correspondence,† it would appear that Sir N. O'Connor's proposals to place officially on record with the Sublime Porte the settlement arrived at as to the frontier of the Aden Protectorate by an exchange of notes, to which I observe that copies of the *procès-verbal* exchanged at Sheikh Said, i.e., the *procès-verbal* of the 20th April last, were to be attached, has been approved: as also the suggestion that a paragraph should be inserted in the British note to the effect that the actual demarcation of the frontier north-east from the Baza was postponed to a more favourable moment.

3. Whether these notes have yet been formally exchanged or not this Office is not aware, but it would not appear in any case that the action now reported as having been taken by the Turkish authorities of Rada is justifiable. I have therefore the honour to suggest that representations should be made, through the British Embassy at Constantinople, with a view to necessary instructions being at once issued to the Kaimakam of Rada to immediately withdraw his six policemen and his invitation.

4. Meanwhile, should Government desire it, I can instruct the Political Officer at Dhalala to counsel the Rubesten Sheikhs to expel the Turkish Envoys from their limits.

Inclosure 3 in No. 11.

*Political Officer, Dhalala, to Political Resident, Aden.**Dhalala, November 11, 1905.*

WITH reference to the north-east demarcation and correspondence ending with Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, letter of the 10th June last (forwarded by Residency the 4th idem), I have the honour to report that I have received a letter to my address from the Sheikhs of Rubesten, viz., Saleh Ahmed Ali, Yahya Askar, and Yahya Naser, who forward a letter addressed to them from the Kaimakam of Rada (Turkish), in which the Sheikhs are apprised of the arrival into Rubesten of six policemen, and are instructed to pay the Kaimakam a visit without delay. It is written that they will be given a safe conduct through the power of God and the Sublime Government.

The Rubesten Sheikhs believe the Turks are in quest of revenue.

2. Rubesten is clearly an appanage of Sultan Kahtan-bin-Omer (Upper Yafa), though I have received no news of a definite compromise by which, as suggested, Julian was to be ceded in return for Turkish recognition of our superior claims over Nawa, Rubesten, and Dhabiani (vide telegram of 6th April last from Political, Bombay, to Foreign, Simla).

3. I have urged upon the Kaimakam of Rada the advisability of non-intervention in the affairs of Rubesten till our respective Governments have come to a final conclusion in the matter, and I have also counselled the Rubesten Sheikhs, who asked my advice, to refer the Turkish Envoys to their master, with whom, I added, I was in communication.

4. I request the Resident will be so good as to ask Government for instructions.

Inclosure 4 in No. 11.

*Government of Bombay to Political Resident, Aden.*

(Confidential.)

*Bombay Castle, December 7, 1905.*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 18th November last, relative to the proceedings of the Turkish authorities with reference to Rubesten.

\* This Office letter, June 4, and accompaniments; Political Department letter, June 11, 1905.

† Foreign Office to India Office, June 23, and inclosure; India Office to Foreign Office, July 5, 1905.



2. In reply, I am to say that Rubenstein is clearly within the British sphere of influence, and to ask for the withdrawal of the six policemen who have been sent into their territory by the Kaimakam of Rada. The result should be reported.

2579]

No. 12.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 20.)

Sir,

India Office, January 19, 1906.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to inclose, for Secretary Sir E. Grey's information, a copy of a telegram from the Government of India, dated the 2nd January, 1906, and of explanatory papers, relative to the issue of a Proclamation by His Highness the Sultan of Muscat in order to give effect to the finding of The Hague Tribunal regarding the question of the grant of the French flag to Muscat dhows.

Mr. Morley at present advised, agrees with the views held by the Government of India with regard to the points of difference between the British and French Consuls, but he would be glad to be favoured with Sir Edward Grey's opinion on the subject, and also on the question whether the Political Agent at Muscat should be authorized to inform the French Consul of the conclusion arrived at by His Majesty's Government, or whether the matter should be settled here first in communication with the French Government.

With reference to the final paragraph of the telegram, Mr. Morley understands the suggestion to be that, in return for a concession in respect to the French Consul's contention, the French Government might be willing to withdraw the Anglo-French Declaration of 1862, thereby leaving His Majesty's Government free to adopt any policy with regard to Muscat which it might desire. Mr. Morley fully recognizes the advantage to British interests of terminating the Agreement in question, and would suggest that the French Government might be sounded on the subject, unless Sir E. Grey considers the moment inopportune, or is on other grounds inclined to think that proceeding inexpedient.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY

Inclosure 1 in No. 12

Government of India to Mr. Morley

(Telegraphic.) P

MUSCAT Award. Following is reply we propose to send to Consul at Muscat with regard to the points raised in his telegram of the 3rd December, copies of which were forwarded with Foreign Secretary's letter of the 13th December:—

1. As to the first point, the Award of the Tribunal is final and binding on the parties concerned. It is not a suggestion or a recommendation, but a decision. It is not a matter for the British Government to consider or to act upon. It is a matter for the French Government to consider and to act upon. The British Government is bound to respect the Award, and to refrain from any action which might be construed as an attempt to evade or to ignore it. The British Government is bound to support the Award, and to refrain from any action which might be construed as an attempt to undermine or to weaken it. The British Government is bound to maintain the Award, and to refrain from any action which might be construed as an attempt to challenge or to dispute it. The British Government is bound to uphold the Award, and to refrain from any action which might be construed as an attempt to ignore or to neglect it. The British Government is bound to enforce the Award, and to refrain from any action which might be construed as an attempt to obstruct or to hinder it. The British Government is bound to protect the Award, and to refrain from any action which might be construed as an attempt to threaten or to harm it. The British Government is bound to preserve the Award, and to refrain from any action which might be construed as an attempt to destroy or to annihilate it. The British Government is bound to maintain the Award, and to refrain from any action which might be construed as an attempt to challenge or to dispute it. The British Government is bound to uphold the Award, and to refrain from any action which might be construed as an attempt to ignore or to neglect it. The British Government is bound to enforce the Award, and to refrain from any action which might be construed as an attempt to obstruct or to hinder it. The British Government is bound to protect the Award, and to refrain from any action which might be construed as an attempt to threaten or to harm it. The British Government is bound to preserve the Award, and to refrain from any action which might be construed as an attempt to destroy or to annihilate it.

2. As to the second point, inviolability in regard to matters specified in the Treaty, Articles III and VII, does not cease in any way so far as dhows within territorial waters of Muscat are concerned.

3. We propose to agree with Grey with regard to the third point.

(Confidential.)

With regard to Grey's suggestion that concession on our part as to point (1) might secure recognition of British protectorate by the French, who will thus have saved their face, you are in the best position to judge whether there is anything in this view.

13

Inclosure 2 in No. 12

Major Grey to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Muscat, December 3, 1905.

PLEASE refer to your letter dated the 17th October, 1905, and your telegram dated the 24th November, 1905.

The French Consul agrees with me that the Proclamation should be issued by the Sultan. But before we can frame it the following points, in regard to which we are not in accord, should be decided:—

1. French hold that the authorization to fly their flag is granted to an owner for all dhows he possesses, founding this view principally upon the wording of clause 2 of the Award. The British hold that the Authorization is granted only to the authorized persons received authorization.

2. Status of dhows while at anchor in Oman ports. I contend that a dhow should cease to be inviolable with the dropping of the anchor.

3. In cases of quarrel between the master and the crew or among the crew while at sea. French Consul holds that such a matter should be referred to him for settlement after the return of the vessel. I maintain that this would be withdrawal from the Sultan's jurisdiction.

Repeated to Major P. Z. Cox, Bushire.

Inclosure 3 in No. 12.

Major Grey to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Muscat, December 3, 1905.

PLEASE see my telegram of to-day.

The object of French is to save their face locally as far as possible. French Consul admits that in all cases the authorization disappears with the death of holders, so that in time all will die out in any case. Under these circumstances, could we not obtain *quid pro quo* for allowing the authorization to be considered as they wish? The British would be prepared to recognize French protectorate their interests in this country being finally settled.

[3125]

No. 13.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 20.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 28th December, 1905, relative to the Muscat Arbitration Award.

India Office, January 26, 1906

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

Major Grey to Government of India

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Muscat, December 16, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of this Office letter of to-day's date, and its inclosure, which I have this day addressed to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. G. GREY.

[1629]



## Inclosure 2 in No. 13

Major Grey to Political Resident, Bushire.

Sir,

Muscat, December 16, 1905.

WITH reference to letter dated the 17th October, 1905, from the Secretary to Government of India in the Foreign Department to your address and subsequent correspondence, I have the honour to submit the following report in connection with the settlement of the French flag question according to the Arbitration Award:—

1. M. Laronce and I held our first two conferences on the 2nd and 6th instant. On the first occasion we confined our attention to discussing the terms of the Award themselves, and the points upon which we differed were submitted by me to the Government of India on the following day in a telegram, of which a copy was sent to you. M. Laronce agreed to the suggestion that a Proclamation announcing the result of the arbitration should be issued by His Highness the Sultan, and we will forward in due course to our respective Governments a draft for approval. The Proclamation should, in my opinion, explain the terms of the Award, in order that the Omanis concerned may know definitely the extent of their privileges in future; hence, from

2. In our second conference the persons who were henceforth to fly French flags were discussed. First M. Laronce informed me that on the 13th May, 1904, an Agreement was signed between London and Paris in regard to the recognition by His Majesty's Government of protection being afforded by France to twenty-five Arabs of Zanzibar, and gave me a list of six of these, who, he said, are in the habit of visiting Oman, and must be considered as protégés of France in this neighbourhood, as they are in Zanzibar. I attach a Memorandum in connection with these individuals, and it is interesting to note that M. Ottavi, who is at present French Consul at Zanzibar, and presumably is responsible for the compilation of this list of twenty-five names, was from 1891 to 1901 Resident of the French Consulate at Muscat, and must be aware that four of these six persons are subjects of the Sultan of Oman.

3. M. Laronce then produced the list of flag-holders placed by his Government before The Hague Tribunal with their Counter-Case. He informed me that all the owners of dhows included therein were believed to have received their authorization to fly the flag in the first instance from one of the French Colonies between 1863 and 1892, and that inquiries were being made, of which he hoped before long to furnish me with the result. From local reports, it would appear that several had obtained their papers first from M. Ottavi in Muscat; but the position is a difficult one, as no doubt the French would produce documentary evidence from their colonial registers if required to do so. This matter I hope to go into more fully when my colleague furnishes me with the dates and records in connection with this list.

4. Our negotiations are now delayed, pending an Agreement being arrived at upon the points concerning the interpretation of the terms of the Award referred by me in my telegram of the 3rd instant, and the receipt by M. Laronce of further information in connection with the list of French flag-holders.

5. A copy of this Report has been forwarded to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. G. GREY.

## Inclosure 3 in No. 13.

## Memorandum.

THE first name given to me by M. Laronce is Mahomed-bin-Saleem-bin-Abud Al Ghadani. This man is a subject of the Sultan of Muscat; he was born at Sur, and, as the name implies, belongs to the Ghadani section of the Jennabe tribe. I am not aware of the circumstances in which he has since been considered to be a Zanzibar subject. So far as is known, he spends his time about equally between Zanzibar and Sur, where his mother still resides.

2. Ali-bin-Said at Tamami. This man is also an Omani. He has a house at Aigeh adjoining Sur, and belongs to the Beni Bu Ali tribe.

3. Mahomed-bin-Rashid Al Malikhi. This is a subject of the Sultan of Muscat,

belonging to the Mowalikh, a petty tribe of the Hinavian branch, who inhabit Ras-ul-Had. He was born and resides at Ras-ul-Had.

4. Mahomed-bin-Rashid Ar Rantali. This is a subject of the Sultan of Muscat, belonging to the Beni Bu Ali tribes, who reside at Aigeh.

5. Mobarek-bin-Mahomed Al Amari. This man was originally from Oman, but has resided since the days of Sayid Barghash in Bokin, and is now generally regarded as a Zanzibar subject.

6. Juma-bin-Mobarek. This man is said to be a cousin of No. 5, and is considered to be a subject of Zanzibar.

The submission of this list has been delayed pending the return of His Highness the Sultan to Muscat, as it was necessary to consult him in order to identify the persons concerned. If it be possible to remove the names of the four Omanis from the original Agreement, I recommend that this should be done, otherwise I will have to explain to His Highness that they are not henceforth to be regarded as subjects of his.

## Inclosure 4 in No. 13.

Major Grey to Government of India

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Muscat, December 19, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of letter of the 16th December, and its inclosure, which I have addressed to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. G. GREY.

## Inclosure 5 in No. 13.

Major Grey to Political Resident, Bushire

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Muscat, December 16, 1905

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a letter received by His Highness the Sultan on Tuesday last from the French Consul.

2. It is interesting on account of its reference to the French flag question, and His Highness in his reply ignored this portion of its contents, remarking to me when he showed me the letter, that the French Government had in that connection a good opportunity to exhibit some of the friendship which they professed to feel for him.

3. The presents referred to were for His Highness, his brother and sons, as follows:—

For his son, Sayid Nadir	Two rifles, one sofa, one table, one mirror, seven chairs, and two carpets.
For his son, Sayid Taamor	One mirror.
For his son, Sayid Nadir	One watch, one chair.
For his son, Sayid Nadir	One watch and one

The total value of the above would appear to be about 1,000 rupees.

4. A copy of this letter and its inclosure have been forwarded to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. G. GREY.



Inclosure 6 in No. 13.

*French Consul at Muscat to the Sultan of Muscat.*

(Translation)

(After compliments)

December 12, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Highness that the High Government of the French Republic has sent me back to you with instructions to strengthen the cords of friendship and amity which have from old time bound France with Oman. Hitherto difficulties have perpetually arisen on account of giving the French flag to Oman subjects, but now these (difficulties) have been stopped by the Agreement of The Hague Court, and nothing remains which could disturb friendly relations, so we hope that from henceforth affection will be strengthened, increased, and firmly established between the two nations. And they (my Government) have ordered me to hand you a present from them, so I beg of your Highness to come to this Consulate to-morrow—13th December—in the afternoon to drink tea, for which I shall be highly obliged

[Unsigned.]

[3755]

No. 14.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 31.)*

WITH reference to this Office letter of the 17th instant, the Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a paraphrase of the Secretary of State, paraphrases of telegrams relative to Turkey and Rubiaten.

*India Office, January 30, 1906*

Inclosure 1 in No. 14

*Mr. Morley to Government of India*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*India Office, January 16, 1906*

ADEN. Please refer to the letter of the 7th ultimo from the Government of Bombay to the Resident at Aden, and connected papers, forwarded with Foreign Secretary's letter, No. 51, of the 21st ultimo.

I shall be glad if you will furnish me by telegraph with your views on the question, and with a report as to what action has been taken by Political Officer at Dithali, under the instructions of the Government of Bombay, in connection with the case cited.

Inclosure 2 in No. 14

*Government of India to Mr. Morley*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*January 20, 1906*

YOUR telegram of the 16th instant regarding Rubiaten.

We have received through Government of Bombay a telegram dated the 22nd instant from Resident at Aden, in which he states that he has received, in time to be forwarded by mail of the 21st instant, a report by Political Officer at Dithali to the effect that no actual ingress of Turks into Rubiaten has taken place; that Rubiaten Sheikhs have only been invited by Mudir of Rada to go and meet him and make friendship; that Mudir of Julan and his son have now sent a similar invitation to these Sheikhs, and that they have been advised by Political Officer to reply that Rubiaten is within British Protectorate.

On receipt of Political Officer's reports, views of Government of India will be communicated by telegraph.

[3754]

No. 14<sup>a</sup>.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 31)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 27th instant, relative to unrest in the Aden Hinterland.

Copies will be sent to the Director of Military Operations

*India Office, January 30, 1906*

Inclosure in No. 14

*Government of India to Mr. Morley*

(Telegraphic.) P.

*January 27, 1906*

ADEN. My telegram of the 23rd instant

We have received two further telegrams, dated the 23rd instant, from the Government of Bombay. In the first of these they refer to the telegram No. 596 of the 23rd instant, and report that Resident at Aden telegraphed on the 16th instant to the effect that postal runner had been shot near Sheikh Oduman, and the mail which he was conveying robbed, that assailants were reported to be Attifi tribe of Subahia, and that matter was being inquired into.

In the second telegram the Government of Bombay refer to their telegram of the 21st instant, and repeat a telegram from the Resident at Aden, to the effect that attack at Nebat Dakhia was delivered at Commissariat inclosure; that assailants belonged to a nomadic clan numbering about sixty men, a sub-tribe of Subahia; and that it was rumoured that a few of them had been killed or wounded. Resident stated that circumstances were not yet fully known, and promised to send further particulars as soon as received. He was of opinion that incident had no connection with mail-bag robbery, but was probably connected with the relations between Abilah and Ha-shabi tribes.



[4088]

No. 15.

*Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 3.)*

(No. 49. Confidential.)

Sir,

Paris, February 1, 1906.

WITH reference to Sir Nicholas O'Connor's despatch No. 3 of the 2nd ultimo with regard to a project for the construction of a railway in the Yemen, I am informed that M. Elie Léon, Honorary Turkish Consul in Paris, who is reported to be the promoter of the scheme, is well known in financial circles in Paris, and, although a great speculator, would have little difficulty in finding the necessary funds for such an undertaking. He is stated to belong to a financial group in which the Ottoman Bank is interested, and information with regard to the scheme could probably be supplied by the bank's agents in Constantinople.

M. Zaborowski, the engineer referred to in the despatch, is said to enjoy the highest reputation in his profession, and was for many years employed by Count Vitali in connection with various railways and other enterprises in Turkey and elsewhere.

I learn on inquiry that he is now in Turkey, and is not expected back in Paris for some considerable time.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

FRANCIS BERTIE

[4259]

No. 16.

*Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 5.)*

(No. 46.)

Sir,

Constantinople, January 25, 1906.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 14 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith a despatch from the Military Attaché at this Embassy, reporting ~~for the information of the Government that the same was not considered~~ have been of less gravity than was to be anticipated from the previous account.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

N. R. O'CONNOR

Inclosure in No. 16.

*Colonel Surles to Sir N. O'Connor*

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Constantinople, January 25, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have received from a Turkish source information respecting the progress of the campaign against the rebels in Yemen, to the effect that, at the beginning of December last, a large quantity of warlike stores ~~in~~ a considerable sum in thalers were despatched from Sanaa towards Schibah under escort of one and a-half battalions. On arrival at Sauda, in the district of Haschid, it was attacked by a large force of rebels, who routed the convoy. The Turks fled as best they could, abandoning arms, ammunition, and money.

As soon as news of the disaster reached Sanaa, Liwa Riza Pasha, with four battalions, moved against the tribesmen to avenge their comrades, but this force was also worsted at Sauda, and would have been cut off if the Commander had not managed to send word to Fezi Pasha of his dangerous position.

The Marshal, on receipt of this information, moved out at once from Sanaa with two Arabian battalions, and speedily succeeded in extricating Liwa Riza Pasha and his force.

Having then rallied the whole force, the Marshal assaulted Sauda and razed it to the ground, slaughtering without mercy the whole of the inhabitants, children included, as a punishment for broken faith.

He recaptured all the arms, ammunition, and money seized by the Arabs from the convoy, and took in addition large spoils from the enemy.

After this victory, Fezi Pasha moved against the large village of Sunnet in the Haschid territory, and destroyed it, killing about 200.

The Imam was not far from the scene of the engagement, but hurried away.

1021

P



The neighbouring tribes, disheartened by the massacre at Sauda, are said to be imploring forgiveness, which is being granted.

Marshal Feizi Pasha returned to the neighbourhood of Schiabara with Riza Pasha and his troops, and intended prosecuting the siege of the latter place with the assistance of eight well-equipped battalions which were on their way to join him from El Mafiar.

It is difficult to control the exactitude of the above information, but, in the absence of anything more trustworthy, I venture to put it forward for what it may be worth.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) H. CONYERS SURTEES, Colonel,  
Military Attache

[4263]

N. 17

Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 49. Confidential)

Sir,

Constantinople, January 30, 1906

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, reporting that during the last ten months the relations between the Sheikh of Koweit and the Vali of Bussorah have become very much more friendly. Correspondence of a cordial nature passes constantly between them, and Mr. Crow mentions that Mubarek's agent, Abdul Aziz-en-Salim, whose release I reported in my telegram No. 109 of the 2nd December, 1905, has not returned from Koweit to Bussorah.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR

Inclosure in No. 17

Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.

(No. 50. Confidential)

Sir,

Bussorah, January 4, 1906

THE relations between a marked improvement during the past year in the relations of the Sheikh of Koweit with the Vali of Bussorah. This change has been noticeable since the meeting at Sofwan in February 1905. The Vali's attitude towards Mubarek is both friendly and conciliatory, and the Sheikh, on his side, seems to do all he can to meet Mukhlis Pasha's wishes, both by subscribing liberally to the military barracks, which have recently been erected at Bussorah, and to which Mubarek contributed £ T 635; by regularly forwarding deserters from the Turkish troops in Ghassim, who made their way to Koweit, and by safeguarding the postal communication between Bussorah and Haifa, which continues by way of Koweit, as reported in my telegram No. 36 of the 4th November, 1905.

The Sheikh of Koweit's imprisoned agent, Abdul Aziz-en-Salim, who was released and sent to Koweit with letters on the 29th November, 1905, as reported, has not returned. There is frequent interchange of letters between the Vali and the Sheikh of Koweit, and, as far as I have been able to learn, the correspondence is couched in very friendly terms, the Sheikh styling himself "Katmakam of Koweit," and signing "your sincere friend." The bearer of one of these letters was Mubarek's overseer at Fao, who got into difficulty in October 1904, and applied for protection and asylum on board one of His Majesty's ships, as reported by Mr. Monahan in his telegrams Nos. 56 and 65 of that year. As this man is now employed as a go between, he would not appear to be any longer in danger of molestation by the Turkish authorities. It is said that forty men, including thirteen officers, deserters from Ghassim, arrived in Koweit at the end of December, and that arrangements are being made by Mubarek to convey them to Bussorah. Instructions have lately been given by the Vali to Colonel Agass, in charge of the fort at Fao, not to prevent the construction of embankments on the Sheikh's property at Fao, provided the work does not interfere with the fort. The Vali, in thanking the Sheikh of Koweit for his assistance in recovering deserters, requests him to continue to collect as many as he can and

forward them. Orders have also been given to the officer in charge of the fort at Um Kasr to show all deference to Mubarek on his way from Koweit to Sofwan, from which I conclude that the Sheikh intends to visit this neighbourhood, though I have no information on the subject.

These incidents indicate the establishment of more friendly relations between Koweit and this vilayet than formerly existed. The Vali may have some ulterior motive, but I have not yet been able to discover it.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

[4443]

No. 18

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 6.)

THE Under Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 3rd instant, relative to affairs in the Aden hinterland.

India Office, February 5, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 18

Government of India to Mr. Morley

(Telegraphic.) P

February 3, 1906.

RESIDENT at Aden reports by telegraph on the 28th January that Turkish Revenue officer, accompanied by some troops, has arrived at Mafalia with intention of collecting revenue from certain Shujaiya tribesmen. Reference is made to Aden Boundary Commission's despatch to Government of India, dated Poona, No. 45 of 1904, paragraph 3, from which it will be seen that some of the Shujaiya reside in British sphere within Mansuri limits. With a view to preventing collection of revenue from his subjects, Mansuri Sheikh has moved a force up to frontier, but Resident is writing to him to forbid any form of hostility. Resident adds that general restlessness prevails among the Sudahis in the vicinity.

2579]

No. 19.

Foreign Office to India Office

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 8, 1906

I HAVE laid before Secretary Sir E. Grey your letter of the 19th ultimo, on the subject of the negotiations between the British and French Consuls at Muscat for the carrying into effect of the recent Arbitration Award.

With regard to the points of difference between the two Consuls, Sir E. Grey concurs in the terms of the reply which the Government of India propose to return to Major Grey respecting points 1 and 2.

As regards point 3, viz., the French claim to jurisdiction in Muscat over an Omani accused of having committed a crime on the high seas while sailing in a dhow flying the French flag, Sir E. Grey is advised as follows:—

If the Omani in question leaves the ship and proceeds on shore, he comes at once under the jurisdiction of the Sultan, and is not justiciable by the French Consul. On the other hand, the Sultan, and therefore His Majesty's Government, has no valid ground of complaint if, without being landed, he is transhipped for trial at Obokh or some other place within French territory, nor would it be reasonable to object if the man were merely landed so as to enable the French Consul to make arrangements for his being sent for trial before a Court in French territory. Objection should, however, be taken to his being tried by the French Consul at Muscat.

Sir E. Grey would propose, if Mr. Secretary Morley concurs, that His Majesty's Consul should be authorized to inform his French colleague of the conclusion.



at by His Majesty's Government on the three points at issue, and to endeavour to effect a settlement on the lines laid down. No proposal, however, which the French Government would, in the circumstances, be necessary.

The suggestion with regard to the withdrawal of the Anglo-French Declaration of 1862 has received careful consideration, and I am directed by Sir E. Grey to state that it is considered that it would be unwise to present it at present. The Government in the matter, unless His Majesty's Government were prepared to offer them some considerable equivalent elsewhere. In some years time, when the gradual disappearance of the French flagholders will have reduced French interests in Muscat to a minimum, the proposal might possibly be put forward more opportunely and with greater chances of French acquiescence.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) E. GORST

[4844]

No. 20.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 9.)

Sir,

India Office, February 8 1906.

WITH REFERENCE to the communication from the Political Agent at Bahrain, the Behaib tribe, terminating with Sir H. Walpole's letter of the 24th August, 1905, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from the Government of India, dated the 4th ultimo, together with its inclosures, reporting the result of further inquiries into the matter by the political officers in the Persian Gulf.

The Government of India state that they have come to the conclusion, after careful examination of the information which has been supplied to them, that there are two possible alternatives:—

1. To press for compensation from the Porte.
2. To drop the case.

In the circumstances, it appears to Mr. Morley that, unless Sir N. O'Connor wishes to reserve power to press the claim for compensation, it would be desirable to adopt the second alternative and to drop the case, and he would be glad to be favoured with Sir E. Grey's views as to the course to be followed.

It will be observed that the Government of India apparently contemplate the further remedy lies in his own hands by the exclusion from Bahrain of members of any tribes which are in a position to exercise pressure upon the Behaib with a view to their coming to a settlement. Mr. Morley sees no objection to such a communication being made to the Sheikh, provided it is made clear to him that no excessive action on his part will be countenanced by the British Government.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Secret.)

Sir,

Fort William, January 4, 1906.

WE have the honour to transmit to you copies of a despatch from the Political Agent at Bahrain, dated the 24th August, 1905, and a letter from the Political Agent at Bahrain, dated the 4th ultimo, reporting the result of further inquiries into the matter by the political officers in the Persian Gulf. The Political Agent at Bahrain has examined the question afresh, in view of its

† Dated September 9, 1903.

1. Indorsement to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf dated January 6, 1905.

2. Letter from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, dated February 26, 1905, with inclosures.

3. Letter from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, dated September 10, 1903, with inclosures.

more recent developments, and it will be seen from his report to Major Cox that he has arrived at the following conclusions:—

(a.) That if Sheikh Esa is now given the free hand, hitherto withheld, to exact reparation from the Behaib himself, he must necessarily violate territory under Turkish influence in the process, or raise the question of the status of El Katr in an acute form.

(b.) That reprisals on Sheikh Esa's part, if effective, will further aggravate the existing feud.

(c.) That, judging by recent experience, it is doubtful whether the latter's men would face any serious fighting. They would more probably do no more than murder a few innocent people.

For these reasons he deprecates the grant of permission to Sheikh Esa to settle accounts with the Behaib according to his own ideas.

As an alternative, he suggests that we should press the Porte energetically on the Sheikh's behalf for pecuniary compensation, and demand prompt payment of the 38,500 rupees due. This amount includes 2,400 rupees blood money for the lives of Sheikh Esa's three relations—a form of relief which the Sheikh has hitherto declined to accept, but which the Political Agent apparently suggests should be pressed on him. Captain Pridoux also recommends that the Turkish authorities be called upon to intern for a time several of the Behaib, as a guarantee for the future. He suggests that if the Porte declines to take this course and at the same time delays payment of the compensation demanded, it could retaliate by declining to recognize any claim on their part to exercise jurisdiction in the maritime tract between Salwa Bay and Katif, and also presumably in the Katar Peninsula, except at Al Bidaa, and that we should notify our intention to take measures to deal with the tribes direct, preferably by the institution of a blockade of the Dhalaman and Katar coasts.

As regards the proposed blockade of the Dhalaman and Katar coasts; that is, he considers that we should insist on payment of compensation by the Porte, and, failing compliance, take the matter into our own hands and deal with the tribes ourselves; and he considers that such a course will be in itself a challenge to Turkish pretensions on the Dhalaman coast, and an exposure of the Porte's inability to exercise jurisdiction there effectively, whatever their rights *de jure* may be.

The present matter has now been the subject of negotiation with the Turkish Government for five years without any practical advance having been made towards a settlement. It will perhaps be advisable at this stage to review the pros and cons in regard to the policy that should be adopted.

On the one hand, we are in the position of having already taken up the case at Constantinople, with the knowledge of the officials and local Ch. Sheikh of Bahrain. Due regard must, of course, be paid to Major Cox's views, both owing to their intrinsic force and to their being put forward by the officers on the spot, who should be specially qualified to express an opinion on the effects of our attitude on local British prestige are likely to be. It is no doubt highly desirable not only to impress Sheikh Esa with a sense of the value of our protection, but also to make the Turkish officials on the mainland feel that we take our position seriously as Protecting Power over Bahrain, and will hold them responsible for injury caused to the subjects of the protected Sheikh by Arabs over whom they claim to exercise authority. On the other hand, it is becoming increasingly clear that the permission which we are authorized to give for the Sheikh to exact reparation himself would be practically useless by reason of the proviso that he must not enter El Katr, and even if an attack were organized on the occasion of one of the Behaib's infrequent visits to the promontory, they would probably have little difficulty in escaping into Turkish territory before punishment could be inflicted. It will be seen, moreover, that the Political Agent is more than doubtful of the wisdom of attempting or permitting reprisals. In the light of the fresh information now supplied, it would appear that the murder of the Bahrainis by the Behaib was one of three outrages which were all incidents of one feud, and, apart from the fact that we have hitherto espoused the cause of Sheikh Esa as one deserving of reparation, it is not clear that the case belongs to a class which calls for the active intervention of the



British Government. In such a quarrel it might be considered alike impolitic to grant the Sheikh our sanction to revenge himself in debatable territory (thereby making ourselves responsible for his action), or to press the Turkish Government further either to exact punishment, which clearly lies beyond their power, or to give compensation, which they have a reasonable case for refusing. Though such a solution would not, perhaps, be very satisfactory, it is arguable that we had better now accept the Turkish assertion, which is supported by a mass of proof, that thirty-seven out of the fifty individuals have been accounted for, tell the Sheikh that we are not prepared to press the Turks to take any further action in the case of an outrage arising out of a tribal feud, and advise him that the further remedy lies in his own hands (as pointed out by Captain Pridenax), by the exclusion from Bahrein of members of any tribes which are in a position to exercise pressure upon the Behnah with a view to their coming to a settlement. To come to the other suggestions of the local officers, we consider that our first step in the affair is to place beyond the range of serious consideration Major Cox's suggestion that we should take the matter into our own hands and blockade the tribes concerned, as well as Captain Pridenax's scheme for a blockade of the Dthaharan and Katar coasts. Moreover, it appears to us doubtful whether Major Cox does not overrate the effects upon our prestige and interests of inaction in a case which the inhabitants of the Arab coast must recognize to be a blood-feud between two tribes, and not in any way an outrage by the Turks against the British Government.

After carefully considering all these points, we have arrived at the conclusion that there are two possible alternatives:—

1. To press for compensation from the Port.
2. To drop the case.

The other proposed courses of action may, in our opinion, be ruled out as impracticable. It is the policy of His Majesty's Government to press the claim for compensation at Constantinople, we do not propose to pursue the matter any further so far as the Turks are directly concerned.

We have, &c.  
(Signed) MINTO  
A. T. ARUNDEL  
DENZIL HUBERTON  
H. ERLE RICHARDS  
J. P. HEWITT  
E. N. BAKER  
C. H. SCOTT

[5087]

No. 31

Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 12)

(No. 57)

Constantinople, February 6, 1906.  
Sir,  
WITH reference to the correspondence accompanying your Confidential despatch of the 25th ultimo, I venture to observe that, while I consider there is no objection to providing a steam-launch for the Political Agent at Koweit, the concurrent establishment of a coal depot, and especially the erection of a flag-staff, will probably be reported to the Vali of Bassorah as signs of territorial occupation, which may give rise to serious questions and possibly to some trouble in view of the better relations now existing between the Vali and the Sheikh, whose policy seems to be not to compromise himself hopelessly with the Turks. We can adopt these measures by degrees, but I think it would be advisable to proceed carefully, and at first to be content with building quarters for the boat's crew. The rest will gradually follow.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

[5106]

No. 22

Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 76.)

Sir,

Constantinople, February 7, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from the Military Attaché at His Majesty's Embassy, reporting a conversation with the Turkish Minister of War on military matters in Bulgaria and the Yemen.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR

Inclosure in No. 22.

Colonel Surtres to Sir N. O'Connor

(No. 6)

Sir,

Constantinople, January 30, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to report that I to-day had an audience with his Excellency Riza Pasha, the Ottoman War Minister.

In the course of conversation his Excellency remarked that England was continually giving advice to Turkey, but never appeared to exercise her influence on Bulgaria, which Principality, he said, was undoubtedly preparing for war with Turkey, and had, without protest from the Powers, organized a formidable army, entirely contrary to existing Treaties.

His Excellency stated, moreover, that although his personal instincts and desires were to punish Bulgaria, nevertheless, Turkey would never become the aggressor in a Balkan war, a course which he thought that nothing was to be gained by a successful conduct.

He said that he personally was keeping a very close watch on Bulgarian movements, and that he did not intend that Turkey should be taken by surprise.

His Excellency, on my referring to the operations in Yemen, stated that it was true that Liwa Riza Pasha had been killed and that there had been a slight disaster involving the loss of some 250 Ottoman soldiers in killed and wounded near Schishara, but that any statement that one and a-half battalions were gross exaggerations.

He added that the Turkish battalions had passed Bisha en route for Wadai on the Turco-Persian frontier, but said that operations in that country at this time of year were quite impossible.

His Excellency was most cordial, and expressed his sympathy with England very decidedly.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) H. CONYERS SURTRES, Colonel,  
Military Attaché

5111

No. 23

Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 12)

(No. 81.)

Sir,

Constantinople, February 7, 1906.

I SPoke to the Minister for Foreign Affairs a short time ago respecting the maps of the Yemen and the Gulf of Aden, which were sent to the British Legation in Constantinople in 1905. In the present circumstances it would be very difficult to get this from the Sultan, and a formal request might possibly give rise to new complications. The maps signed by the Commissioners of both countries had been received by the Minister of War, and the delimitation could, in a certain sense, be considered as settled. He was inclined, therefore, to think that it would not be advisable to broach the subject, and the Under-Secretary of State had accordingly decided that the maps were in themselves sufficient proof of the work accomplished and the delimitation agreed on in common.



I am rather disposed to concur in Tewfik Pasha's views, the more so that every section of the boundary agreed to by the Ottoman Commissioners has been sanctioned by separate Iradés and Vizirial orders obtained during the course of the negotiations, at the same time I feel that, from an official point of view, it would be more satisfactory were the usual formalities completed.

If, however, I press for an Iradé it is quite possible that some of the difficulties and obstructions foreseen by the Minister for Foreign Affairs may arise, and that the Imperial Government, in order to avoid making an application to the Palace for an Iradé, may advance the argument that the north-east portion of the boundary between Wadi Hanan and the desert has not yet been delimited in detail, and that until that is done the final formalities, by exchange of note or otherwise, cannot be carried out.

Without incurring the risk of raising an embarrassing question, I think it may be possible for Mr. Fitzmaurice to compare the maps in the Embassy with those in the possession of the Ottoman Minister of War, and if you consider, as I am inclined to think, that this constitutes a sufficient record of the frontier delimitation, I am disposed not to move further. I do not, however, like to leave matters in their present condition without taking your instructions.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR

5414

No. 24

Indian Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 14)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of Inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 11th ultimo, relative to the use of the truce flag at Bahrain, and the Treaties by which the Sheikh is bound.

Indian Office, February 13, 1903.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

Major Cox to Government of India

Bushire, June 25, 1903

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copies of the correspondence regarding the use of the truce flag at Bahrain and the Treaties by which the Sheikh is bound.

2. The accompaniments to my letter to Sheikh Eza consist of copies of the engagements numbered XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX, XXXIV, and XXXVII in Aitchison (3rd edition), Volume X, and also the later Agreements of 1892 and 1898, relating respectively to Sheikh Eza's relations with foreign Powers and to arms traffic.

I have not included the Agreement of 1868 (No. XXX) as I have not been able to trace a copy of it on my records, and furthermore it would not appear to be of any importance at the present day.

3. The question of the use of the specially decried flag by the truceal Chiefs formed the subject of a recent reference to the Government of India, but I then dealt with the subject only so far as it concerned the truceal Chiefs proper.

The Sheikhs of Bahrain were, it is true, parties to the general Treaty of 1820 with the Arab tribes of the Persian Gulf, but Bahrain does not appear ever to be regarded as quite on all fours with the petty principalities of the old Pirate Coast (a view which finds support in the treatment of Bahrain and the Maritime Arabs in Aitchison) and I have not so far been able to trace any correspondence on my records to show that strict compliance with Article III of the Treaty has ever been specifically pressed upon or exacted from Sheikh Eza or his predecessors.

In any case it appears that this Article has remained a dead letter for many years.

so far as Bahrain is concerned, though the Ruler is undoubtedly bound by it just as much as the other signatories.

Under the circumstances I do not think that anything will be lost by my awaiting an indication of the views of Government on the point, and I have therefore instructed Captain Prideaux that, pending a reply from Government, it will be advisable for him not to pursue the question with the Sheikh. As I ventured recently to observe in another connection, I am inclined to think that we must proceed cautiously with Sheikh Eza, if we hope to reform him and not over him with the introduction of too many reforms at once, however sound the reasons for them may be.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

Captain Prideaux to Major Cox.

Bahrain, May 27, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in the course of a recent conversation with the Chief of Bahrain, I asked him why the truceal flag described in the Treaty of 1820 was never flown nowadays.

2. The Chief told me in reply that he had never seen of such a flag and that to the best of his knowledge his ancestors or their subjects had ever possessed it. He then proceeded to say that the only Treaties with the Government of India which he knew of or recognized were those which bore his seal either as a party concerned or as a witness. If this attitude is permitted it would seem that Sheikh Eza would repudiate all the slave Treaties, which hitherto he has never done. I did not mention this point, but the Chief said that I would ask you to send him these same authenticated copies in Arabic of all the Treaties which had been executed between the Governments of Bahrain and India.

3. The Chief then reverted to the question of the flag, and asked whether the Treaty of 1820 bore the seals of the Chiefs of that time, Sheikh Selman and Abdallah. I did not reply to this question, as I was not sure of the facts at the time. I surmise, however, from p. 130 of Aitchison's Treaties, Volume X, 3rd edition, that this particular Treaty bears only the seal of the Sheikh's Wakil. If such is the case the Sheikh's inquiry appears rather to indicate that he is not as ignorant as he professes to be on the subject, but that he will repudiate his obligations if he is called upon to comply with the full terms of the engagement.

4. I do not suppose that the Government of India will attribute much importance to the question of this flag, particularly because the arrangement apparently originated in the interests of the truceal Arabs themselves. The Agreement, however, may be considered useful at this juncture as an instrument for putting pressure upon a Chief whose loyalty is so much in doubt.

Inclosure 3 in No. 24.

Major Cox to Captain Prideaux

Bushire, June 25, 1903

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 27th May, 1903, regarding the use of the truceal flag by the Sheikh of Bahrain and the subject of the Bahrain Treaties generally.

2. I inclose for favour of transmission a letter with accompaniments which I have addressed to Sheikh Eza in the second connection, as requested by you. His suggestion that he is only responsible in regard to engagements which bear his seal as a party or a witness cannot of course be admitted for a moment, but a perusal of my present letter and the engagements accompanying will, I hope, disabuse him of any such idea if he seriously entertains it.

3. As regards the general Agreement of 1820, you will note, on further reference to Aitchison (pp. 130-131), that it does bear the seals and signatures of Sheikh Selman and Abdallah, the sons of Ahmed.

4. I have forwarded a copy of your letter to the Government of India, and will let you know their views on receipt. Meanwhile I think it will be advisable for you not to make any further communication to Sheikh Eza on the subject of the use of the truceal flag.

[1629]

H



Inclosure 4 in No. 24

Major Cox to Sheikh Esa bin-Ah.

(After compliments.)

Bushra, June 24, 1905

I UNDERSTAND from the Political Agent that you are not in possession of all the Treaties and engagements entered into by the Chiefs of Bahrein (your ancestors and yourself) with the British Government, and as the non-possession by you of such Treaties is likely to cause needless misunderstandings, I send you herewith copies, as per list appended, of the most important engagements by which, as ruling Sheikh of Bahrein, you are bound to the British Government.

Inclosure 5 in No. 24

Major Cox to Government of India.

Bushra, July 21, 1905

IN continuation of this Office letter dated the 25th June, 1905, I have the honour to forward, for the further information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter, dated the 13th instant, and inclosure with reference to the use of the tracial flag at Bahrein, and the Treaties by which the Sheikh is bound.

Inclosure 6 in No. 24

Captain Prideaux to Major Cox.

Bahrein, July 13, 1905.

WITH reference to your letter dated the 25th June, 1905, with which you inclosed a letter and accompaniments for the Chief of Bahrein on the subject of his Treaty engagements, I have the honour now to transmit Sheikh Esa's reply, together with a translation of his letter made in my office.

2 As stated by me, I have referred to in referring again to the question of the tracial flag. I still think, however, in spite of the satisfactory tone of the Chief's letter, that he will do his utmost to evade complying with the Article regarding the flag, if the Government of India consider that there will be any advantage in pressing the matter upon him.

Inclosure 7 in No. 24

Sheikh Esa-bin-Ah to Major Cox.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

5 Jamadi-al-Awwal, 1323 (July 9, 1905).

I WAS honoured by the receipt of your letter dated the 30th Rab-al-Thani, 1323, containing copies of Treaty engagements between the Chief of Bahrein and the British Government. I abide by all these, and to assure you of this I have written this letter.

Inclosure 8 in No. 24

Government of India to Major Cox.

(Telegraphic.)

Simla, August 8, 1905.

PLEASE refer to your letter dated the 21st July, 1905. What flag does the Sheikh of Bahrein fly at present? Does he fly the plain red Arab or the Turkish?

Inclosure 9 in No. 24.

Major Cox to Government of India

(Telegraphic.)

Bushra, August 9, 1905.

PLEASE refer to your telegram dated the 8th August. The plain Arabian flag is flown by Bahrein.

Inclosure 10 in No. 24

Government of India to Major Cox.

Simla, August 15, 1905.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th June, 1905, on the subject of the use of the tracial flag by the Sheikh of Bahrein, and the latter's attitude towards certain of his Treaty obligations.

The Government of India approve your action in sending Sheikh Esa a complete set of the important Treaties now in force between him and the British Government, and consider it unnecessary for you or the Political Agent to revert to the subject unless you receive from him a further disclaimer of his Treaty obligations.

I am also to express concurrence in your view that we must proceed cautiously with the Sheikh and not alarm him by pressing for the simultaneous introduction of too many changes. The efforts of the Political Agent should be mainly directed towards obtaining the Sheikh's acceptance of desirable internal administrative reforms, and no steps need be taken at present to get him to carry out his obligation to fly the tracial flag in place of the plain Arab flag, an obligation which appears to have remained a dead letter for eighty-five years.

[5586.]

No. 25

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 15.)

Sir,

India Office, February 14, 1906

IN continuation of my letters of the 15th and 25th ultimo relative to the steps to be taken to give effect to the Muscat Arbitration Award, I am directed by Mr Secretary Morley to transmit, for Sir H. Grey's information, a copy of further papers received from the Government of India on the subject, also of telegrams from the Viceroy, in which it is proposed to instruct His Majesty's Consul at Muscat to advise the Sultan not to recognize, as subjects of the Sultan of Zanzibar, certain men included in a list, furnished by the French Consul, of persons stated to be entitled to recognition as French protégés under an Agreement between the British and French Governments of the 13th May, 1904.

Mr Morley is inclined to think that this procedure would not be in accordance with the arrangements proposed by Lord Lansdowne in his communication to M. Cambon of the 24th October last, and accepted by the French Government on the 8th of the following month. It was then decided that the British and French Governments should "in drawing up a list of the subjects of the Sultan who are still entitled to fly the French flag," and that "the result of this Conference should be referred by the two Consuls to their respective Governments for approval."

In these circumstances any advice of the proposed kind to the Sultan would appear to be premature, as the intention evidently was that his Highness should be advised to act in accordance with a final agreement between the parties to the arbitration.

With regard to the merits of the question, Mr Morley understands that the Agreement of May 1904 referred solely to the question of "l'exercice par la France du droit de protection à Zanzibar" (M. Cambon to Lord Lansdowne, dated the 18th May, 1904). For this purpose a list of persons who were neither natives of a French Protectorate, nor "actually in the service of the French," but who, by some other means, had acquired French protection, was presented by the French Consul at Zanzibar to His Majesty's Representative. This list contained the names of six individuals, whose history, so far as it has been ascertained, is given in a Memorandum











(refer to No. 128 of December, 1903), and were subsequently severely punished, were exposed in disgrace before recruits newly arrived, and then permitted to go home.

**Rainfall.**—Rain has been abundant over most of the Hedjaz, as also Yemen, during the last few months, but at Jeddah it has failed again (in spite of public prayers offered on more than one occasion by the townspeople); and now the chances of obtaining any sufficient supply are daily diminishing. So the cisterns around town are likely to remain empty next summer, and the dearth of water will be more keenly felt than before. However, the rain up country insures fodder in great plenty, and less difficulty as to pilgrim transport.

**Hedjaz Railway.** This railroad, mentioned in the Board of Trade Journal, N 175, of the 4th instant, is believed here to be making satisfactory progress, but next to nothing is known of it, and very little interest taken in it.

**Judicial Claims in the Commercial Court.**—As trade is increasing to so marked an extent of late (refer again to No. 3, 193 A.S.), it might have been expected that cases in the local Commercial Court would be more numerous; but that does not appear to be the fact. A list of those which occurred during the last three years is appended, showing that the total amount under dispute does not reach the sum of 3000l. Nor have any other really important cases come under the notice of this Consulate. Nor as the Temiz Court at Jeddah presided over by the Cadi, hears all civil and criminal matters, more work is done there; while the Bidayet Court devotes its attention solely to slave affairs.

**Public Health.** Public health has been unusually good during the past quarter, as per the official mortality list here given.

Month.	Men	Women	Total
October	1	1	2
November	1	1	2
December	1	1	2
Total	3	3	6

No small pox to speak of, and very little fever, has been observed lately. The death-rate here may be so low as fifty in some months, but at the time of pilgrims' arrival the quarter under review usually ranges from 120 to 150 per thousand under ordinary circumstances; the mortality on British pilgrim steamers from the East is fairly low. The excess of men's over women's deaths is to be ascribed to the influx of pilgrims, but it is regrettable to note the large proportion of children's to adults' deaths, viz., 34.5 (72 to 208), with no satisfactory explanation.

The need of a hospital here or at Mecca for pilgrims' benefit is ever before us.

For the Turkish Government show no disposition to take any steps. As to the water question and the condenser (to produce fifteen tons a day) at Abu-Saad, and other improvements in the Lazaret, these matters will be discussed elsewhere.

**Incident at the Russian Consulate.**—It is a disagreeable task to have to criticise the conduct of a colleague, otherwise esteemed, as in my despatch No. 106 of the 12th October; but it must be noted that the same officer has widened the breach again lately between local authorities and himself, as representing the Ottoman and Russian Governments, by refusing to receive the Jeddah Kaimakam, who went in uniform to pay a complimentary visit on the occasion of the 6th (19th) ultimo. I understand that this grievance has been referred to the Imperial Palace. The reason assigned for the unusual and offensive proceeding was that the Turkish flag had not been hoisted over the barracks, although it was flying in recognition of the Emperor's name-day at the fort on the sea whence salutes are fired. At the Government House there is no flagstaff.

(Signed) G. P. DEVEY,  
His Britannic Majesty's Consul

Jeddah, January 16, 1906

Inclosure 3 in No. 26

Consulate of Jeddah, His Britannic Majesty's Consulate

List of Claims by

No.	Name	Amount	Remarks
1	Abu Bakr Pasha	1000	For the purchase of land for the construction of a mosque.
2	Nasir Mahomed	500	For the purchase of land for the construction of a mosque.
3	Abu Bakr Pasha	1000	For the purchase of land for the construction of a mosque.
4	Nasir Mahomed	500	For the purchase of land for the construction of a mosque.
5	Abu Bakr Pasha	1000	For the purchase of land for the construction of a mosque.
6	Nasir Mahomed	500	For the purchase of land for the construction of a mosque.
7	Abu Bakr Pasha	1000	For the purchase of land for the construction of a mosque.
8	Nasir Mahomed	500	For the purchase of land for the construction of a mosque.
9	Abu Bakr Pasha	1000	For the purchase of land for the construction of a mosque.
10	Nasir Mahomed	500	For the purchase of land for the construction of a mosque.



[5988]

No. 27

*Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 19.)*

(No. 94.)

Sir,

Constantinople, February 13, 1906

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from the Military Attache to this Embassy, reporting on the Turkish military operations in the Yemen

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 27.

*Colonel Surtees to Sir N. O'Connor*

(No. 8.)

Sir,

Constantinople, February 12, 1906

I HAVE the honour to report that Mushir Ahmed Feizi Pasha returned to Sanah on the 10th January, 1906, having raised the siege of Schibah, and announced his non-intention of again taking the field until reinforcements reach him.

Lawa Pasha Yusuf, who has been slightly wounded near Schibah, is, with Ghaleb Pasha, operating in the Haschud country.

Turkish prisoners are being employed by the Arabs in repairing the roads leading to Schibah.

With the Turks rations are said to be scarce.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) H. CONYERS SURTEES, Colonel  
Military Attache

5992]

No. 28

*Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey. (Received February 19.)*

(No. 95.)

Sir,

Constantinople, February 13, 1906

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Political Resident and Consul-General at Bagdad, reporting offer by the German Consul at that place to subsidize the Carmelite schools, if they will undertake to teach German.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 27.

*Consul-General Newmarch to Sir N. O'Connor*

(No. 101.)

Sir,

Bagdad, December 30, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to submit for your Excellency's information the following extract from my diary to the Government of India, under date the 26th inst.—

"I learn on good authority that the German Consul here has offered to liberally subsidize the Carmelite schools in this country if they will undertake to teach German. He said that as the Bagdad Railway was near at hand, it was important that the German language should be diffused in those parts."

"This intelligence appears to me to be important, as showing the intention to spread German influence through this country."

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) L. S. NEWMARCH  
Lieutenant Colonel

[6573]

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 23.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 20th instant, relative to the provision of a launch at Koweit.

India Office, February 22, 1906

Inclosure in No. 30.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India*

Telegraphic) P.

India Office, February 20, 1906.

KOWEIT Please refer to the letter of the 11th November last from Resident in Persian Gulf. If you think it necessary to provide launch for Koweit, Ambassador at Constantinople sees no objection to this, but he thinks that trouble would be caused if establishment of coal depot, and especially erection of flagstaff, were carried out at the same time.

[6581]

No. 30

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 23.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 21st instant, relative to the Muscat Arbitration Award.

India Office, February 22, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 30.

*Mr. Morley to Government of India*

India Office, February 21, 1906.

Your telegram of the 2nd ultimo.

Following are conclusions arrived at by His Majesty's Government on the several points raised in connection with the Award:

1. As regards (1) and (2), His Majesty's Government agree with views expressed by

as soon as he lands in Oman, comes under Muscat jurisdiction. In the case, however, of a person of crime on the high seas being brought against an Omani belonging to a French-protected dhow, while we should object to such person being tried by French Consul at Muscat, we could not object to accused being transhipped to some French port for trial without being landed in Oman, nor, again, would it be reasonable to object if accused were landed temporarily, and merely to enable arrangements for above purpose to be made by French Consul.

"Conclusions arrived at by His Majesty's Government on above points should be communicated to French Consul by Grey, who should endeavour to effect settlement on lines now laid down. He should also be instructed not to raise question referred to in the final (Confidential) paragraph of your telegram; it would, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, be useless at present to approach French Government in this matter."



• Index of the day of year, 840



## Inclosure 2 in No. 31

Captain Trevor to Government of India.

Bahrain, October 15, 1905

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, translation of the inclosed news-letter which I have received from the Resident Agent, Shargah, reporting, *inter alia*, the movements of the notorious Mohamed Abdul Wahab, of Darcin, in Katif district.

## Inclosure 3 in No. 31

Residency Agent, Shargah, to Major Cox.

(Translation.)

Shargah, September 15, 1905.

ON the 11th Jamadi Thani 1323 (13th August, 1905) the Chief of Dehai proceeded to the village of Hatta for the purpose of repairing a spring for irrigation of date trees, &c. He returned to Dehai on the 23rd Jamadi Thani (25th August, 1905), and it appears that he has appointed one of his men, named Abdullah-bin-Bauker, who belongs to the Lariyeh Ajman tribe, to look after the spring.

On the 14th Jamadi Thani (16th August, 1905) Mohamed-bin-Abdul Wahab arrived at Dehai by the mail-steamer from Bombay.

When he landed at Dehai from the mail steamer the Chief of Dehai's *locum tenens* fired a salute of two guns and hoisted his flag on the Government House. This Mohamed-bin-Abdul Wahab is a merchant and deals in pearls, but he is a resident of Darcin, in the district of Katif, and a Turkish subject. He visits Bahrain, Katif, and Bombay.

It appears that Mohamed-bin-Abdul Wahab is the bearer of presents sent to all the Chiefs of the Persian Gulf by the Government of India. He has brought with him a letter from Nakandas Jowarjin, residing at Bombay.

Every Sheikh has been sent a silver tray, weighing 150 miskals, and one pair of binoculars, and one brocade shawl with a letter. I beg to forward herewith a copy of one of the letters for your information.

Mohamed-bin-Abdul Wahab arrived at Shargah on the 21st Jamadi Thani (23rd August 1905). The Chief of Shargah fired a salute of two guns and hoisted his flag on the Government House, and entertainments were given in his honour by the Chief of Shargah and some of the inhabitants of that place. He remained at Shargah for three days and handed to the Chief the presents sent with him by Nakandas Banna, adding a small bundle containing silk cloth, abba (cloak), a watch, &c. He then returned to Dehai. On embarking on the boat at his departure for Dehai, he distributed 500 rupees amongst the servants of the Chief of Shargah.

The Chief of Ajman had sent two dromedaries to Mohamed. He, however, did not accept them, and returned them to the Chief, sending 100 rupees as a present at the same time from himself to the Chief. The Chiefs of Shargah and Dehai had each sent two dromedaries to Mohamed Abdul Wahab. He accepted them and dispatched them to Bahrain by the mail-steamer.

Mohamed-bin-Abdul Wahab tried to bring about a reconciliation between the Chief of Shargah and his uncle Sheikh Salem-bin-Sultan. The latter, however, did not agree that the reconciliation should be effected through him (Mohamed), saying, "You are a foreigner, and an understanding should be made by one who should (always) be present to see that it is not infringed."

I have heard that a friendship exists between the Headman of Fajera and Sheikh Salem-bin-Sultan, and that the former has invited the latter to come to Fajera as his guest and has prepared for him some presents in the shape of dates, &c., and awaits Sheikh Salem's arrival at Fajera.

It appears that, if no reconciliation is effected between the Chief of Shargah and Sheikh Salem, the latter will join the Headman of Fajera and Zed-el-Hejali, the Head of Shehiyeen, against the Chief of Shargah and take possession of the villages belonging to the latter in the mountainous districts of Ras-el-Kheima and Shargah. But this fact has not become public as yet.

Most of the inhabitants of Shargah and Ras-el-Kheima inwardly desire to be ruled by Sheikh Salem-bin-Sultan. If the latter attacks Ras-el-Kheima and Shargah even

with only 100 men, the townspeople will join him. But Sheikh Salem is an old man and does not like to fight. He desires to see the Chief of Shargah, but the Chief does not agree to this in the same and I think that, in the case of a fight, the Chief of Shargah will be victorious. Mohamed-bin-Abdul Wahab gave Sheikh Salem-bin-Sultan 400 dollars and twenty bags of rice as a present.

## Inclosure 4 in No. 31

Nakandas Jowarjin to the Sheikh

(Translation.)

15th Jemadi-ul-Awwal, 1323 (July 19, 1905).

YOU have of course heard the news of the marriage of (my) son Subbagh. We have sent marriage gifts to some of our friends. As you are one of the most respectable of our friends, we have sent you a silver tray and a pair of binoculars, which I request you to accept and oblige us.

My son Subbagh sends you salams.

## Inclosure 5 in No. 31.

Extract from the Diary of the Persian Gulf Political Residency for the Week ending October 15, 1905.

Shargah

3. October 3, 1905.—Abdul Aziz-bin-Saood has addressed letters to the Tribal Chiefs of the Persian Gulf, asking them to bring about a reconciliation between the El Murrah, Beni Hajir, and Ajman tribes. He also expresses his intention of visiting the Chiefs' territories in the spring. He left El Katr and went to the watering-place Azarnookh.

14. Chief of Abu Dhabi is reported to have sent the letter received by him from Bin Saood to the Sultan of Muscat, and he himself proposes to go to Muscat to confer with the Sultan. He is requested to keep a careful watch and report future developments.

## Inclosure 6 in No. 31

Extract from the Diary of the Persian Gulf Political Residency for the Week ending October 22, 1905.

Shargah.

1. September 27, 1905.—Sheikh Zaeed-bin-Khalifa, Chief of Abu Dhabi, came to Shargah. He is a well-known and respected man. He has a wife, who recently left him and went to live at Dehai with her father. The latter is Sultan-bin-Naser Sweidi, whom Sheikh Zaeed has been trying to settle at Zarn (a disputed peninsula between Shargah and Ajman). Sheikh Zaeed's mother was a relative of the Sultan.

Sheikh Zaeed, and matters about which there were disagreements between them were discussed. Sheikh Zaeed asked the Chief of Um-el-Kowein to refrain from entering into any relations with the Bedouins, assuring him that if he was afraid of them he would support him against them. The Chief of Um-el-Kowein, though he inwardly wishes to maintain his relations with the Bedouins, especially the Beni Kuth, has accepted Sheikh Zaeed's advice. The Chiefs then returned to their territories, where they were visited by Sheikh Zaeed later on.

## Inclosure 7 in No. 31.

Captain Trevor to Government of India

Bahrain, October 29, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a translation of a report which I have received from the Resident Agent at Suvaigah, together with the inclosures. From the latter it will be seen that Abdul Aziz-bin-Abdul Rahman bin-Saood visited Katr during the week ending the 15th October, 1905, and it was stated that the Chief of Abu Dhabi proposed to confer with His Highness the Sultan of Muscat on the subject.

I have now heard that Sheikh Zaeed-bin-Khalifa duly visited Muscat, and that the Sultan is much pleased at the visit. As the Sultan has no power to visit Oman, his appearance anywhere on the shores of Oman, it would be the signal for all the Ghafiri tribes to rise against him.

I think it is unlikely that Bin Saood will endeavour to visit the Pirate Coast and Oman, but the appearance of the Wahabi Amir in this quarter would certainly cause trouble, and I think that steps should be taken to prevent his making any such visit, should it appear later that he seriously contemplates doing so.

I therefore submit this report, with the request that the Government of India will be pleased to favour me with instructions as to what action should be taken should such a contingency arise.

## Inclosure 8 in No. 31

Residency Agent, Suvaigah, to Major Cox.

(Translation.)

October 8, 1905.

I BEG to forward herewith a copy of a letter from Abdul Aziz-bin-Abdul Rahman, Amir of Nejd, to the Chief of Dubai. He has addressed similar letters to the other Chiefs.

Herewith is also inclosed copy of a letter from Khalid-bin-Abdulla-en-Soweidi, one of the Chiefs of the Nejd, to the Chief of Dubai. The letter is signed by Abdul Aziz-bin-Abdul Rahman.

The Chief of Abu Dhabi has dispatched the letter received by him from Abdul Aziz-bin-Abdul Rahman, to His Highness Syed Fazel, Sultan of Muscat, and intends proceeding to Muscat by the mail-steamship which is due at Dubai from Bassorah on the 6th October, 1905. I have learnt from the Chief of Abu Dhabi that he intends to confer with His Highness the Sultan of Muscat, and that he will probably visit the Arab Coast.

## Inclosure 9 in No. 31

Abdul Aziz-bin-Abdul Rahman-bin-Saood to the Chief of Dubai

(Translation.)

20th Jemad-es-Sani, 1323 (August 22, 1905)

OUR state is good, by God's grace. I write to inform you that I came to these parts in consequence of the disagreement which had taken place between the Yam tribe (i.e., Ajman).

I visited Katr, and effected a reconciliation between them, and punished the offenders.

I proposed to stay there to look after the affairs of the Yam tribe, but I was informed that the Yam tribe had taken flight when I was near them. I thought it desirable to inform you of this.

Hamad-el-Din bin-Saood

## Inclosure 10 in No. 31

Khalid-bin-Abdulla-en-Soweidi to Sheikh Zaeed-bin-Khalifa.

(Translation.)

27th Jemad-es-Sani, 1323 (August 29, 1905).

I HAVE received your letter, and was glad to hear of your welfare. Sheikh Hamadan's letter has been received and gladdened me.

I have also received the letter of Bin Saood and the Bedouins. After his arrival at El Ha-sa, he remained there for several days, and he was given a grand entertainment. He summoned them (the inhabitants) and issued bills on them. No one could reject the bills. He has appointed three Sheikhs at El Ha-sa for hearing complaints. He made peace between the Bedouins. And Bin Saood will take action against whomsoever found guilty of having committed robberies.

Mansoor-bin-Ghanim of Khoyarin came to him and were reconciled with him. He made peace between them and Ajman and other tribes, and proceeded to a watering-place named Asarnookh-day.

Mansoor-bin-Ghanim came to me, gave me this news, and brought me a complimentary letter from him informing me of this arrangement.

And that of Beni Hajir proceeded to Aray.

And that of Beni Hajir proceeded to Aray. He told him either to remain as before, that is to say, as a wicked man (Shaki), or to undergo five years' imprisonment at Muscat. He preferred to undergo imprisonment, and proceeded to Muscat.

## Inclosure 11 in No. 31

Amer-bin-Shaban to the Chief of Abu Dhabi.

I BEG to inform you that I visited Abdul Aziz-bin-Abdul Rahman-bin-Saood and found him to be a highly qualified person like his relatives, or rather superior. I was reconciled to him, and he made peace between me and the Ajmans and others.

By God, O Zaeed! my eyes did not fail to see the trays, tents, house furniture, coffee-pots of Constantinople make, belonging to Bin Rashid (which were with Bin Saood). Your turn has come now.

He said, "O Amer, by God! I will explore the country belonging to my father and grandfather, from Muscat to Jolan."

He had a good intention or a bad one. He said he would act upon God's will. I said, "Zaeed in the Imam of the Arab Coast and has relations with your people at Katif and El Ha-sa, and this fact is not hidden." He said he would do everything properly. He is a man of high account. As to El Ha-sa, by God! the day he made his entry there, his men took charge of the Local Administration, and he deprived that place of all its valuables.

## Inclosure 12 in No. 31

Extracts from the Diary of the Persian Gulf Political Residency for the Week ending October 7, 1905.

Muscat.

20. SHEIKH ZAEED-BIN-KHALIFA, the Chief of Abu Dhabi, arrived at Muscat on the 18th by steamship "Madura," accompanied by his son and Sultan-bin-Dhiyab; His Highness the Sultan, with Sayid Muhammad-bin-Turki, met him on the steamer.

[120]

31



Shargah.

25. It appears that, in spite of the advice of the Chief of Abu Dhabi to the contrary, the Emir of Abu Dhabi has entered into an offensive and defensive alliance, which, it is believed, is aimed at the Chief of Abu Dhabi.

Inclosure 13 in No. 91.

Government of India to Major Cox

Port William, December 5, 1906.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 29th October 1906, and to inform you that the Government of India have no objection to the adoption of the proposal that Abdul Aziz-bin-Abdul Rahman-bin-Saood endeavour to visit the Pirate Coast and Oman.

The Government of India, while noting your view as to the improbability of a visit taking place, are of opinion that the matter is sufficiently serious to merit attention, and that the Government of India should be kept informed of any developments in the matter.

The Political Agent at Kowloon is therefore directed to keep the Government of India informed of any developments in the matter.

at the present stage not to give too official a character to any communication that may be made to Sheikh Mubarak.

6905

No. 32

Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 26.)

(No. 100.)

Sir,

Constantinople, February 19, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatch No. 59 of the 12th inst. containing a letter from the India Office, in which Mr. Secretary Morley expresses the opinion that, unless I desire to reserve power to press upon the Sublime Porte for compensation for the murder of certain Bahramians by the Behkish.

Considering that reasonable efforts

I have, &c.  
Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR

5586]

No. 33.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Foreign Office, February 27, 1906.

Sir,

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst. relative to the Muscat Arbitration Award and a question which has arisen with regard to certain French protégés at Zanzibar, four of whom are subjects of the Sultan of Muscat.

It is proposed to return to the Government of India.

I am, &c.  
Signed) E. GORST

[7201]

No. 34.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 28.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, dated the 25th ultimo, relative to the Aden to Dthala Railway project.

India Office, February 27, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 34

Major-General Mason to Government of Bombay

Aden Residency, November 19, 1905.

(Confidential.)

I HAVE the honour to report, in reference to your letter dated the 20th July, 1905, that the Aden Resident has now agreed to the proposal that a Notification be issued for the construction of a railway from Aden into the interior passing through his territory. He is willing that these offers attached to the draft Notification herewith inclosed. He is willing that these offers shall be invited by the Political Resident at Aden for recommendation to him and to Government. And I have the honour to recommend the early publication of the Notification accordingly.

2. The Assistant Commanding Royal Engineer is now actually engaged in drawing up the map asked for in paragraph 2 (2) of your letter under reply, and is at present only able to submit a preliminary sketch of the route.

3. The map will be submitted as soon after the sketch is submitted to Aden as possible, and I submit at once the draft Notification embodying the conditions to which Sultan Sir Ahmed Fadhl only finally agreed on the evening of the 16th instant.

4. It will be observed that the conditions considered essential by the Government of India have been included. Others I consider desirable to meet both local and general needs, and certain of them are of course framed to meet the Abdali Sultan's wishes and aspirations.

5. As to the first two conditions, I have the honour to recommend that some such period as that of twenty-five years specified should be fixed within which the right of purchase by Government or the Abdali Sultan should not be exercised.

6. As to the 3rd condition, it is left to the Companies concerned to offer the conditions as to rates and fares which they are willing that Government should be granted for military purposes. I know of one Company which would probably be willing to offer a reduction of one-third on ordinary fares.

7. The 4th and 5th conditions embody the jurisdiction arrangements which the Abdali Sultan is at present willing to accept. I may say that more has been secured than I at first anticipated.

8. The 6th and 7th conditions I consider desirable, and in regard to the 8th I trust that the general principles of management of the State Railways may be considered as suitable as any other. It certainly seems necessary that some general principles of management should be specified at the outset.

9. The 10th condition is a valuable concession, particularly in the event of the railway being extended, as I trust it eventually will be, on the other side of Abdali territory.

10. The 11th condition calls for no particular comment. The Companies concerned will doubtless offer reasonable personal concessions of the kind referred to in the form of a modicum of free passes, saloon accommodation, &c.

The 12th condition should prove useful in due course of time.

11. As to the 13th condition, the Abdali Sultan derives a very considerable proportion of his revenue from the transit dues which he has hitherto been allowed to

collect, and the present would seem a proper time to attempt to effect a reduction of what is of course a serious imposition of taxes. The Sultan can only charge a 2 per cent duty on goods belonging to British subjects. An attempt might at some future date be advantageous to adjust the rates, a large part of which are now more or less arbitrary, upon a regular fixed scale.

12. I would remark, for the information of Government, that the Abdali Sultan has chosen the present opportunity to suggest an enhancement of the dues which he is under Treaty obliged to levy on goods belonging to British subjects. The subject is therefore a delicate one to broach and a most difficult one to satisfactorily deal with. I am, on the whole, inclined to recommend a general adjustment at a fairly early date, which should entail as substantial a reduction as possible of dues on ordinary goods at the cost of as slight an enhancement as possible of dues leviable on goods belonging to British subjects.

13. The total abolition of the dues, which is of course most desirable, is, I fear, impossible, anyhow in the lifetime of the present Sultan. The collection of dues might be effected without very serious difficulties, but the recoupment of which might be arranged for by Government themselves imposing a moderate and regular taxation for a term of years. At present I am not in a position to go into figures. But, should Government desire it, I will of course make arrangements to collect special statistics.

14. Granted the continuance of these dues and that the railway passes, as now proposed, through Abdali limits, there should be very considerable profit to the State from this source alone. As the railway is one of the main considerations upon which the present negotiations are based.

15. The 14th condition of the proposed Agreement relates to the matter of telegraph and telephone. It is a matter of great importance, and I would remark that in his Agreement with Messrs. Conajee Dinshaw and Brothers the Abdali Sultan secured a separate and distinct profit over this concession.

16. I would here remark, for the information of Government, that the percentage guaranteed in that Agreement, in regard to both railway and telegraph, was on the gross takings and not on the net profit. A word "gain" in the English version of that Agreement is misleading.

17. The 16th condition will, I hope, prove most valuable. At first the Sultan would not hear of any other arrangement than that he should personally be solely answerable for policing all the line lying within his limits, and should be allowed to make whatever arrangement he thought fit. Police management will now be under the control of the British Government, and the payment of charges for the police will be made by the Indian railways.

18. The 16th condition is a modification of the Sultan's first proposal which it is necessary and on the whole seems harmless to insert.

19. The 17th condition is the most important of all in several respects, and upon it really hinges the whole enterprise. Under it land is secured free of rent, the Abdali State is secured a real profit from the railway, and Sultan Sir Ahmed Fadhil can, with the sanction of Government, secure a personal share of the profits of the railway. The Sultan is very strongly in favour of making Minia and the route which passes through his limits.

20. I would remark that under the 17th condition he will receive from any other firm so extravagant an offer as that made by Messrs. Conajee Dinshaw and Brothers. The Sultan has himself compared the offer of the British Government with the offer of the Messrs. Conajee Dinshaw and Brothers, and he has decided in favour of the British Government. The Sultan is very strongly in favour of making Minia and the route which passes through his limits.

21. I therefore recommend that this condition be allowed, and that sanction should be eventually accorded to any reasonable offer made thereunder.

22. In doing this I have the honour to invite consideration of the fact that while a certain proportion of his tribesmen and relations, the Sultan is for some reason over an innovation which at first may prove detrimental to the interests of those who gain from the regular traffic of camels between Aden and the interior. I am sure

invite consideration of the fact that succession to the Sultanate is not in Arabia hereditary, but dependent upon a pliancy of the tribe.

23. I would at all events urge that the personal enterprise displayed by the Abdali Sultan in the face of that contingency merits special consideration, and I would recommend that if this enterprise is actually now brought to a successful issue, Government should themselves mark their appreciation thereof by the grant of a suitable personal political pension to Sir Ahmed Fadhil for his private heirs.

24. It is, of course, with some regret that I have to impose upon Government the necessity of making such a grant, but one of the strongest features in the character of the present Sultan is his personal enterprise. I would recommend that if this enterprise is actually now brought to a successful issue, Government should themselves mark their appreciation thereof by the grant of a suitable personal political pension to Sir Ahmed Fadhil for his private heirs.

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private heirs will be granted a fairly handsome personal pension. I would then most confidently assure Government that final negotiation will be prompt and a really satisfactory conclusion.

26. Final negotiations will probably prove more difficult than the preliminary ones, and the result will very largely depend upon the

the direct on of either Aden, on one side, or Kuwait on the other, has suggested itself to me, but this would entail such serious general political complications that I do not recommend the adoption of the idea. The avoidance of Abdali transit through the limits of the Abdali, coupled with the difficulties involved in the present negotiations, or clearly defined inter-State boundaries would, anyhow at the outset, be pregnant with the possibility of a greater immediate loss.

27. The boundaries have been proposed, and should circumstances of an exceptional nature render such a measure for any reason desirable, a digression of the nature indicated might be effected. But at the present, and granted fairly reasonable concessions by the Abdali, I do not recommend the

28. I therefore recommend, in view of the present conditions and the grant of all possible concessions to a Ruler who, whatever his faults, is at least imbued with a spirit of enterprise much above his fellows and countrymen.

29. I have inserted at present no condition as to compensation being paid for loss actually sustained by any individual proprietor or holder of property in the line. Should Government consider it necessary, I can arrange for its insertion. The point was discussed with the Abdali Sultan, but as he demurred to the decision in the matter of the amount of the compensation being decided in my Court, it was for the time being dropped.

30. As to the route the line shall follow through the waterland, I hope shortly to decide the site of the proposed terminus and stations. For the Sultan is very strongly in favour of making Minia and the route which passes through his limits the immediate objective of the railway.

31. I would remark that under the 17th condition he will receive from any other firm so extravagant an offer as that made by Messrs. Conajee Dinshaw and Brothers. The Sultan has himself compared the offer of the British Government with the offer of the Messrs. Conajee Dinshaw and Brothers, and he has decided in favour of the British Government. The Sultan is very strongly in favour of making Minia and the route which passes through his limits. I would remark that under the 17th condition he will receive from any other firm so extravagant an offer as that made by Messrs. Conajee Dinshaw and Brothers. The Sultan has himself compared the offer of the British Government with the offer of the Messrs. Conajee Dinshaw and Brothers, and he has decided in favour of the British Government. The Sultan is very strongly in favour of making Minia and the route which passes through his limits.

32. I venture to hope that the net result of these preliminary negotiations may be approved of. The draft could cover more ground than was contemplated by the



Government of India in their letter dated the 8th July, 1905, but will, I trust, eventually be recognized as essential to the proper working of the proposed railway. The Sultan's consent to them has been gained, not without a struggle, but without friction, and I have the honour to bring to the notice of Government the services rendered by my Acting First Assistant, to whose tact and patience the success of these preliminary negotiations is largely due.

Inlosure 2 in No. 34

*Draft Notification*

WHEREAS the Government of India are now prepared to consider favourably proposals for the construction of a railway by private enterprise from Aden into the interior of the Aden Protectorate, and whereas Sir Ahmed Fadhil, K.C.S.I., Sultan of the Abdali, has expressed his willingness and desire that such a railway should be constructed through his territory: this is to notify that up to and including the 1st day of April, 1906, the Political Resident of Aden is now prepared to consider offers and tenders for the construction of such a line for recommendation to the Abdali Sultan and to the Government of India.

The following are the general conditions on which the railway can be constructed, and offers should be framed accordingly.

(Signed)

H. M. MASON, Major General,  
Political Resident, Aden

*Draft of proposed Conditions under which a Railway may be constructed by private enterprise from Aden into the Interior of Arabia, agreed to by Sultan Sir Ahmed Fadhil, Sultan of the Abdali, November 16, 1905.*

Government reserve the right to purchase so much of the line as lies within British territory at not less than cost price, if it be desired to do so, at any time after the lapse of a period of twenty-five years from the date of the commencement of the line.

2. The Abdali Sultan reserves the right to purchase so much of the line as lies within Abdali territory at not less than cost price, if it be desired to do so, at any time after the lapse of a period of twenty-five years from the date of commencement of the line.

3. Government shall have the right to use the railway for military purposes under special conditions as to rates and fares.

4. Offences committed on the line of railway shall be dealt with in accordance with the Treaties existing or hereafter concluded between the British Government and the Abdali Sultan. The British Government shall exercise sole jurisdiction over all Europeans and British subjects, and the Abdali Sultan shall exercise jurisdiction over his subjects. Offences committed on the railway by subjects of other native States shall be disposed of in the Court of the Political Resident at Aden; but offences committed on the railway within Abdali limits by subjects of other native States of the Aden Protectorate in which Abdali subjects are concerned shall be disposed of by the Abdali Sultan.

5. Civil suits in which the Railway Company is concerned shall be disposed of by the Court of the Resident of Aden. Otherwise civil jurisdiction shall continue to be exercised in accordance with the Treaties existing or hereafter concluded between the British Government and the Abdali Sultan.

6. A plan and estimate of the railway shall be submitted for the approval of the Abdali Sultan and the sanction of Government before the construction of the line is commenced.

7. The railway shall be inspected by an officer appointed by Government before being opened to traffic, and shall be subject to such periodical inspections as Government may consider necessary for any purpose.

8. The general principles of railway management as observed on Indian State railways shall be followed.

9. The management of the line shall vest in the Railway Company, but accounts shall be periodically submitted for the inspection of the Abdali Sultan and of Government.

All apparatus and material required for the construction or working of the railway shall be free of transit and customs duty.

11. Special privileges shall be extended to the Abdali Sultan and to members of his family, and to the Political Resident of Aden and his personal staff.

12. Special facilities shall be afforded to the Government Postal Department.

13. Every facility shall be afforded for the collection of the transit dues to which the Abdali Sultan is entitled by Treaty and usage. These dues shall be collected at such place or places as may be decided upon by the Political Resident of Aden in consultation with the Abdali Sultan.

14. If it is desired to construct any telegraph or telephone in connection with the railway, the project shall be first reported for the separate sanction of Government, and the system shall be under Imperial control. The Indian Telegraph Act and subsidiary regulations shall be applied. Charges shall be adjusted as hereafter arranged between Government, the Abdali Sultan, and the Railway Company, subject to the consent of the Abdali Sultan and the sanction of Government.

15. There shall be a separate body of railway police under a Superintendent, and such proportion of them as may hereafter be decided upon shall be employed by the Abdali Sultan. Charges on account of the railway police shall be apportioned as may be hereafter arranged between the Political Resident, the Abdali Sultan, and the Railway Company.

16. The Railway Company shall issue a special warning to all their employees and passengers to abstain from any acts which might offend the religious susceptibilities of the subjects of the Abdali Sultan. In regard to such matters, and also in regard to the establishment and management of refreshment-rooms on the line, the Railway Company shall abide by the advice of the Political Resident at Aden. No refreshment-rooms shall be opened on the line within Abdali limits without the permission of the Abdali Sultan.

17. In lieu of the concession to construct a railway through Abdali territory and in lieu of rent on the land granted for the purpose, the Abdali Sultan shall receive royalty such percentage of the net profits of the railway as may be arranged with the sanction of Government. Such proportion of this as may be arranged with the sanction of Government shall be allotted as a personal royalty to Sultan Sir Ahmed Fadhil himself and his direct lineal descendants.

18. Sultan Sir Ahmed Fadhil of the Abdali shall, either, in his own name or in that of his sons or relations, be admitted to partnership in the Railway Company on such terms as may be arranged.

(Signed)

F. DE J. HANCOCK,  
AHMED FADHIL MOHSEN.

Aden, November 16, 1905.

Inlosure 3 in No. 34

*Memorandum by Major-General Mason.*

ADVANCE copy of Aden Resident's letter dated the 19th November, 1905 (see No. 1), forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary to the Government of India, the Foreign Department, Simla.

Aden Residency, November 18, 1905.

(Indorsed by Foreign Department.)

(Confidential.)

A copy of the foregoing despatch is forwarded to the Government of Bombay, for information, in continuation of the letter from the Government of India in the Foreign Department dated the 6th July, 1905.

Fort William, December 4, 1905.

Inclosure 4 in No. 34

Major-General Mason to Government of Bombay

Aden Residency, December 10, 1905

IN continuation of my letter dated the 19th November, 1905, and as promised in paragraph 3 thereof, I now have the honour to forward the map prepared by the Assistant Commanding Royal Engineer, Aden Brigade,\* which was requested in my letter dated 1

Aden and the route the line will follow through the hinterland to Nobat-Dakim

2. I attach copy of the Assistant Commanding Royal Engineer's letter, dated the 2nd instant, and of the accompanying Report, from which the present attitude of the Adhali Sultan will be sufficiently apparent. His views will be further ascertained in due course after the Government have been received.

3. As to the extension of the line above Nobat-Dakim, I am of opinion that this will be desirable at an early date as possible in the direction of Maala, by which the more important caravans of the fertile Taiz district now proceed. In this connection I have the honour to invite reference to paragraphs 23 and 24 of Mr. Fitzmaurice's despatch to the Foreign Department of the Government of India, dated Perim, the 30th April, 1905, and to state that the Political Officer at Dhala has been requested to submit a Confidential Report in due course upon the actual possibility of any rectification of the border in the vicinity of

4. As to the proposed terminus in Aden, I am of opinion that this should be at Maala, and that, if possible, a public wharf should be constructed near the Aden Coal Company's wharf at Hedjuff, to which a double line of rail should extend. This pier would be within the 1,200 yards zone of the Hedjuff defences, but would in no way mask the fire thereof. The pier would be right under the defences, and could not be reached by an enemy seeking for cover.

5. I pointed this out myself to General Parsons, the Inspector-General of Artillery, on the occasion of his recent inspection of the Aden defences, and he expressed the opinion that it could in no way prove detrimental to the defences of Aden.

6. The goods imported to Aden consists of skins and other goods, which require manipulation. I am strongly of opinion, in accordance with the Principal Medical Officer of the district concurs, that this should, as far as possible, be kept out of the Crater, which is already congested. And I would therefore propose that building sites should now be freely granted for the reception of merchandise on the vacant space at present existing between Obstruction Pier (near Maala), and the limit of the 1,200 yards zone of the Hedjuff defences. With a view to improving the sanitation of the Crater, I am of opinion that a good many buildings and store depots there should, at an early opportunity, be demolished and re-erected on the Maala Plain.

7. I would therefore favour no branch line of railway into the Crater, except for passenger traffic only, between that place and Tawahi. This, I think, might with advantage follow hereafter, but, for the present, I am in favour of the railway line terminating near the Aden Coal Company's ground under the Hedjuff defences.

8. My proposals would have the effect of to some extent relieving existing congestion in the Crater, and of avoiding the increased congestion which would be caused by railway buildings and sidings there.

9. I would lay particular stress upon the point that the extension of the railway as far as Hedjuff would entail comparatively trifling expense as compared to the heavy cost of dredging a large channel to Maala, by which means alone the existing route there would be made accessible to steamers. The extra dredging which would be necessary to make a public wharf at Hedjuff accessible to large vessels would be comparatively little.

10. Whilst I am strongly in favour of a public wharf at Hedjuff in direct railway communication with the interior, and directly accessible to cargo vessels without the troublesome and expensive intervention of private-owned cargo boats and lighters, I am not in favour of the proposal that cargo should be brought on to the Tawahi reclamation. The Tawahi division of the Settlement has hitherto proved healthy, and I am opposed to any scheme which would entail its congestion with a large coolie population.

\* Not printed.

13

11. I would point out that both the railway terminus and the store depots and other buildings above projected would have the protection of the Mansuri ridge and of the Hedjuff defences in the event of an attack on Aden, whereas in the event of a determined attack being made on the Crater all buildings there would probably have to be abandoned.

12. In conclusion, I can only urge, with a view to the success of the projected railway and the general trade development of the Settlement of Aden, that the earliest possible action should be taken to secure as liberal a modification as possible of the restrictions contained in Rules 3 and 4 of those issued under section 13 of the Aden Settlement Regulation, No. 7 of 1900, and published in Government Notification, dated the 15th October, 1903, at pp. 1370-1375 of the "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I, dated the 20th October, 1903.

I am of opinion that the future progress and prosperity of Aden very largely depend upon the extent to which the Maala Plain can hereafter be utilized for bunding purposes.

Inclosure 5 in No. 34

Memorandum by Major-General Mason

ADVANCE copy, with its accompaniment, forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla

Aden Residency, December 10, 1905.

Inclosure 6 in No. 34

Lieutenant-Colonel Leigh to First Assistant Resident, Aden

Aden, December 2, 1905

IN reply to your letter dated the 9th October, 1905, I forward herewith a Report and tracing\* on the proposed railway to Nobat-Dakim.

His Highness the Sultan of Lahij, who is a member of the Adhali tribe, has been asked to show me the line he proposed for the railway. I went over the whole country, and considered the line proposed by the Sultan—the one now shown in the plan—would probably be the best. The only alteration I proposed in the Sultan's plan was to cross the Wadi-as-Saghir a little more to the south. Husain-bin (Munabain?) informed me that the Sultan had quite determined that the line should not go through any of the cultivated land round El Hauta, and therefore must be kept at some distance.

On completing my inspection, I called on the Sultan, and informed him that I in the main agreed with his proposal; he then at once said that he had changed his mind, and wished the railway to run close to El Hauta. He afterwards added that it must not run through any cultivated land, but must run on the embankments between the fields. I pointed out that this was impossible, as the turn round the fields were much too quick. He afterwards stated that he wished it to go quite outside the Lahij cultivation.

During the interview, I formed the opinion that it will not be difficult to get the Sultan to agree almost to any location considered advisable. The only thing he seemed inclined to insist on was that there must be a station at Dhar-al-Amir, where the line enters his territory.

Proposed Railway from Aden to Nobat-Dakim

The country north of Aden is for the most part sandy desert up to the foot of the hills at Nobat-Dakim, which is about 900 feet above sea level.

From Nobat-Dakim the mountains rise steeply to about 7,800 feet at Jebel Jechal—the limit of territory under British protection, about 40 miles north of Nobat-Dakim. The hill country is bare rocky mountain, with only a little cultivation at the bottoms of the valleys, and the rivers are in consequence liable to very heavy floods.

\* Not printed.



The principal river in this district is the Tiban, which, rising to the north of Dabala, flows round Jebel Jehaff taking the drainage of a large extent of country—passes Musemir, and enters the desert at Nobat-Dakim. Opposite Nobat-Dakim the river flows in a gorge about 150 yards wide and 30 to 40 feet deep, with almost vertical banks. In ordinary times it is a small stream 15 to 20 yards wide and 1½ to 2 feet deep, in heavy floods the whole gorge may be filled with a rapid torrent 6 to 8 feet deep.

About 12 miles south of Zaida the Tiban divides, the western branch, much the larger, being called Al Khabir, and the eastern As Saghir.

Wadi al Khabir opposite Labej is a gorge about 150 yards wide, with vertical clay banks about 20 feet high and subject to much the same floods as at Nobat. Below this it rapidly diminished, till at Al Abad there are several small channels in the sand 6 to 10 yards wide, and only heavy floods reach so far.

The Wadi-as-Saghir to the east of Labej is smaller than the Wadi-al-Khabir, and is about 100 yards wide and about 12 to 15 feet deep, in clay. This is a small stream. Opposite Bir Said-Al-Haydes into several streams, and most of the water is taken for irrigating the wide valley there; opposite Fiyush the valley is a wide depression, with small channels, and small drains to irrigate a width of 2 miles of country. Near Bir Jaour there are small channels in the sand often filled with drifting sand. Only heavy floods reach the part of the valley east of Labej.

In the fork between these streams is Al Hanta, the capital of the district. Here is clayey sand, covered with silt, from just below the fork of the streams to about 2 miles south of Al Hanta, and extending east and west to the banks of the two rivers. The district is covered with irrigation channels, and banks round the irrigated fields. Many of the channels have cut into the clay—6 or 10 feet deep.

West of the Tiban and Wadi-al-Khabir the country from Nobat to nearly Wadi-as-Saghir is hard, gravelly sand. Below this to the sea it is a wide valley.

Wadi Abram is a wide valley about a mile wide opposite Wadi-as-Saghir, 15 to 20 feet below the rest of the desert, with small channels.

The water only occasionally coming as far as opposite Al Walit in heavy floods. The ground at Nobat is hard gravel, with boulders, and occasionally rocks. River Bileh emerges from the mountain from the north-east of Nobat; it is a gravelly stream 50 to 60 yards wide and 4 to 5 feet deep, covered with boulders. It is quite dry in times of flood. Near Al Anad it turns to the west, and enters the Tiban in a stream about 100 yards wide and 3 or 4 feet deep in heavy floods. The valley of the Bileh runs to the south-east from Al Anad, but it is stopped at its north end, and the river has not run in the valley for over fifty years. It is a deep, sandy valley with no stream except in heavy rain, and then very small and soon disappearing in the sand.

The ground between Wadi-as-Saghir and Wadi Bileh is sand, mostly hard on the west side, and loose sand near the Bileh.

On the east of the Wadi Bileh is a steep slope of loose sand in parts about 100 feet high, and beyond that a large extent of loose sand, the steep slope towards the Bileh being apparently formed by sand blown over.

*Course of Railway*—It is considered inadvisable to locate the railway west of the Wadi-al-Khabir and Tiban. The only advantage would be that from opposite Walit to opposite Nobat-Dakim it would be very cheaply constructed, as it would cross no stream, would run along land with an even slope without valleys or hills, very little excavation would be wanted, stone can be obtained nearly all along the route, and the river is near for supplying water to the working parties.

But it would run entirely through the desert, at a distance from villages and cultivation, and it would run a long way from Al Hanta, and on the other side of the Wadi-al-Khabir. It would be on the wrong side of the river at Nobat, and from Jaida would run through the land of a tribe not friendly.

A line running close to Al Hanta, which is, if possible, very desirable, as Al Hanta is the only large town on the route, would run through 8 or 10 miles of cultivated land, and on emerging from this would be between two large Wadis, subject to heavy floods, and necessitating a large bridge. The Sultan of Labej is very averse to taking a strip of land through the cultivated country. On the whole the line shown on the plan seems the best. It would run from Dabala to the sea, passing through Labej, as it is the first place in his territory; a station near Fiyush; cross the Wadi-as-Saghir north of Fiyush; and then run to the sea. It would be near Zaida.

From Nobat further extension would probably, eventually, be up the Tiban valley. There seems to be no difficulty in reaching, at any rate, Musemir; above that the country is not well enough known to give any opinion.

In Aden it is suggested that a station should be located south-west of Maala, and a small branch line run to Maala Wharf. From Maala the best line seems to be to tunnel under the hill, and run out through the small isthmus. Stations are also proposed at Kharmaksar and Sheikh Othman.

It would be a great convenience to extend the line from Maala to Steamer Point which can be done by running the line on the north side of the main road, with a terminus on the newly reclaimed land at Tawani.

(Signed) R. LEIGH, Lieutenant-Colonel R.E.,  
Assistant Commanding Royal Engineers, Aden Brigade

7386

No. 57

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 1.)

India Office, February 28, 1906

WITH reference to your letter of the 17th February, forwarding, for the perusal and observations of the Secretary of State for India, a copy of Sir N. O'Connor's despatch No. 81 of the 7th February relative to the difficulty of getting official ratification.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) HORACE WALPOLE

6866

Foreign Office to India Office

Foreign Office March 1, 1906

WITH reference to your letter of the 8th instant regarding the murder of Bahremine by the Delah tribe, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject.

Sir E. Grey concurs in the view that this case may now be allowed to drop, no objection to the communication, referred to in the last paragraph of your letter, which the Government of India propose to make to Sheikh Eza, provided that it is made clear to him that no excessive action on his part will be countenanced by His Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) E. GREY

66621

Foreign Office to India Office

Foreign Office, March 1, 1906

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant relative to the proposed visit of the Wahabi Amir to the Pirate Coast and Muscat.

I am to inform you that a copy of your letter has been sent to His Majesty's

No. 57

Ambassador at Constantinople for his observations, and that a further communication will be addressed to you on receipt of his reply

I am, &c.  
(Signed) E. GORST

7445

No. 35

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received March 2.)

Admiralty, February 28, 1906

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you a letter dated the 28th ultimo, together with a copy of the inclosure therein referred to, which has been received from the Officer Commanding His Majesty's ship "Proserpine," through the Commander-in-Chief on the East Indies Station relative to a recent visit which was paid to the village at Ras Imram.

A similar letter has been addressed to the India Office.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR

Inclosure 1 in No.

Commander Hulbert to Admiralty

(Extract)

"Proserpine," at Aden, January 26, 1906.

I SENT Lieutenant Wyld on shore to visit the village at Ras Imram, which I consider to be one of the chief landing-places for arms destined for Lahaj, which is a distributing centre for this traffic. I attach a copy of his Report, which is of interest in connection with the arms question, and as evidence of the lawless state of these tribes.

Inclosure 2 in No. 35

Lieutenant Wyld to Commander Hulbert

Sir,

"Proserpine," at Aden, January 29, 1906

IN accordance with your order, I have the honour to report as follows concerning the village at Ras Imram.

2. The village looks exactly the same as on the previous visit in January 1905. The tribesmen were mostly employed in fishing which they were engaged on our arrival. Several dhows have lately been anchored in the bay pearl-fishing; they are said to come from Zaida and Jibuti. Some of the landed to get water from the village, but no further in could be obtained about them.

3. The Sheikh informed me that on the evening of the 11th December, 1905, about eleven men from the Subayya tribe came to the village intending to attack it, but had all disappeared by the morning. I was unable to have seen them, but their camel tracks were traced in the morning. Their tracks were pointed out to me, but it was impossible for me to tell what or how many there were.

4. About nine months ago the village was visited by these tribesmen and four men killed, the Subayya being one. I saw one of the men who had been wounded; he had a bullet mark just above the ankle. During my visit there were upwards of ten men in the village carrying their rifles, which were of French make marked "St. Etienne"; but apparently there are a lot more rifles in store, as the Sheikh said that every man in the village carries a rifle when required to. Those who carried them were the Lahaj's troops, of which there are about twenty in the village.

5. There is a daily communication with Lahaj by camel, a ride of about 10 miles. It is at Lahaj about 6 in the evening, and returns about 10 in the morning. There is no water in the village; it has to be brought in every day in skins on camels from a well which is situated some 10 miles in a north-west direction. The camels are escorted by some of the troops. They usually leave early in the morning, and return in the afternoon about 4 o'clock.

6. The health of the natives was good; there had been some cases of small-pox a few months ago, but at present they are quite free from it.

7. There does not seem to be much trade in the place, all the natives, except the troops, being fishermen, there being plenty of fish in the bay. There are gazelle some distance inland, but the natives do not appear to shoot them.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) H. WYLD.

[7541]

No. 36.

The Earl of Cromer to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 20. Secret.)

Cairo, February 21, 1906.

Sir,

WITH reference to recent correspondence on the subject of Turkish plans for the extension of the Hedjaz Railway to Akaba, and of the number of Ottoman troops in that neighbourhood, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a note furnished to me by an English gentleman of good standing resident in Cairo, of a conversation which he had with M. Martini, ex-Locomotive Superintendent at Haifa, who states that he was summarily dismissed for having employed on the railway an Englishman named Gee.

You will observe that, according to M. Martini, the Turks have now abandoned the Ma'an-Akaba extension in favour of a branch from Ma'an to Akaba which appears to possess several advantages as regards water and supplies.

You will also observe that a corridor to M. Martini's Ma'an line runs only five battalions of Nizams at railhead, south of Ma'an. According to previous information, they had some 20,000 men at Ma'an.

Another point which is worth noticing is M. Martini's statement that it would take the Turks a month to concentrate 16,000 men at Akaba.

I venture to suggest that the information contained in this note should be communicated to the Intelligence Division of the War Office.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) CROMER.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Notes of a Conversation with M. R. A. Martini, ex-Locomotive Superintendent, Haifa.

The Hedjaz Line.—The line from Ma'an to Kalat Medawara is now complete. There is one intermediate station, a mere shed, at Bath-el-Ghoul, where there are two 400-metre sidings. Kalat Medawara is well supplied with water, and provisions can be got there, corn being grown in the oasis. The Ma'an-Akaba extension has been given up in favour of a line from Medawara to Akaba. The final survey of the route was completed in September 1905 by three Germans coming from Akaba. Water is obtainable along the route, where there are few great natural difficulties, and the line should be completed very rapidly. At present, bridging material has gone down with parties of Italian workmen and contractors for the bridges. All the troops have left Ma'an for railhead, where, according to informant, some five battalions Nizam are concentrated. They are armed with the Martini, but have no artillery.

The embankment work has already begun, though no rails have been laid.

The new line will run from east to west (roughly), and will be less vulnerable to attack than the proposed Ma'an-Akaba line, which would have run more or less parallel with the Egyptian frontier. On the other hand, M. Martini informed me that it would take longer to concentrate troops at Akaba via Medawara.

His calculations worked out as follows:—

Average troop train, 1 engine, 10 carriages.  
Average carriage capacity, 40 men  
Average train capacity, 400 men without stores.\*

\* This is understated, if the news I received at Me'an of the modification in 1905 is correct. It gave 500 men to a train.



If trains could get off on the first day of mobilization, and each train should make four journeys per month. This would give each train 1,600 men per month, and as not more than ten engines are ever in good order at one time, some 16,000 men could be concentrated in a month at Medawara. This estimate takes no account of artillery or heavy baggage on the one hand, or, on the other, of the troops already at Medawara, some 4,000 or 5,000 in number.

*Germans.*—Informant described conversations with Germans, who were anti-British in feeling. He was expelled for employing an Englishman, one Gee, of Haifa, who was also expelled from the service of the line. Informant stated that only fifteen or sixteen Germans were employed on the line. They frequently attacked British policy, &c., before the Turks, few of whom had pro-British sympathies. Herr Meissner, later than ever among the Turks, Martin believed that a German could travel on the line south of Amman at present.

Cairo, February 20, 1906

[7709]

No. 40.

Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 5.)

No. 120. Confidential.)

Sir,

Constantinople, February 25, 1906.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 94 of the 13th instant respecting the Turkish operations in the Yemen, I have the honour to inform you that a report on the progress of these operations was recently drawn up by the Military Commission sitting at Yidda, of which the following is a brief summary:

The notorious rebel Sheikh Mahmoud Yahya has by means of the ~~several~~ ~~tribes~~ ~~made~~ ~~proposals~~ to the natives who are in submission to the Government to refuse, like his own followers, to pay the Imperial taxes. He has distributed arms and ammunition among them, and the Vali reports that he has begun to move his forces, together with the guns captured from the Imperial troops from Shehare, towards Firket-el-Axr. Both the Vali and the Commander-in-chief have demanded the despatch of a Nizam division with fresh drafts and they have also asked for a battery of the new pattern guns with 20,000 rounds of ammunition and four howitzers.

The Commission regarded the demand for the despatch of artillery to be natural in the circumstances, but the mobilization and despatch of troops from the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Army Corps was held to be inadmissible, while those sent from the 5th Army Corps have already been sent back. It has accordingly been deemed necessary to ~~reinforce~~ ~~the~~ ~~forces~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~Yemen~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~despatch~~ ~~of~~ ~~troops~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~5th~~ ~~Army~~ ~~Corps~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~despatch~~ ~~of~~ ~~artillery~~ ~~and~~ ~~ammunition~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~5th~~ ~~Army~~ ~~Corps~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~despatch~~ ~~of~~ ~~troops~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~5th~~ ~~Army~~ ~~Corps~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~despatch~~ ~~of~~ ~~artillery~~ ~~and~~ ~~ammunition~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~5th~~ ~~Army~~ ~~Corps~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~despatch~~ ~~of~~ ~~troops~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~5th~~ ~~Army~~ ~~Corps~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~despatch~~ ~~of~~ ~~artillery~~ ~~and~~ ~~ammunition~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~5th~~ ~~Army~~ ~~Corps~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~despatch~~ ~~of~~ ~~troops~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~5th~~ ~~Army~~ ~~Corps~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~despatch~~ ~~of~~ ~~artillery~~ ~~and~~ ~~ammunition~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~5th~~ ~~Army~~ ~~Corps~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~despatch~~ ~~of~~ ~~troops~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ 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Report by Major Green

[illegible]

December 28, 1905.—The Sultan inquired from the Political Agent regarding the S. A.'s visit to Muscat. He does not seem to understand the object with which he has come, and is a little uneasy. The Saud sent the following telegram to M. Passot, Russian Consul-General at Be-ire.

"The boat was Ismail's. Hasan has gone. There were many merchants, and much cargo, (they took the) Minab, Abass, Lingah route. The Company's boat will arrive on Monday, please re-

The Sadik told Mahomed-bin-Sawed that he had been directed to repeat to M. Passet the conversations he had with His Highness.

December 29, 1905.—The Sadid questioned his host about the customs, and the probability of His Highness being induced to hand them over to him or his nominee, suggesting that they would be prepared to offer up to 5 lakhs of rupees yearly for the Muscat and Gwadar customs. He was informed in reply that it was useless to propose such an arrangement, as the Sultan would not accept anything of the kind. The Sadid received the following reply by telegram from M. Passek:—

"You have done the work: return to your own place."

He called upon the French Consul

December 31, 1905.—The Sadid has bidden farewell to His Highness the Sultan, and intends to proceed to-morrow to Bander Abbas.

[8210]

No. 43.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 5.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 6th March, relative to the Muscat Arbitration Award.

India Office, March 8, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

India Office, March 6, 1901.

My dear Sir: Your telegram of the 26th January and 7th February has been received. The course of the arrangement between French Government and ourselves was that, before steps were taken locally to carry out provisions of Award, British and French Consuls should draw up in concert a list of Omnis entitled to French Consular protection, and report results for approval to their respective Governments. Cox is therefore premature in proposing, in his telegram of the 27th December, to advise Sultan to refuse recognition to certain elements. As regards four of the men mentioned in Zanzibar list, basis on which Grey should endeavour to come to an agreement with Larocq is that these men are subjects of Muscat, and that the question of their right to recognition in Oman as French protégés should be decided in accordance with the terms of the Award. There seems no need to dispute case of remaining two men claimed by Larocq.

[5111]

No. 44

Sir Edward Grey to Sir N. O'Connor

No. 96  
817.

Foreign Office, March 8, 1906

I HAVE received and considered, in communication with the Secretary of State for India, your Excellency's despatch No. 81 of the 7th ultimo, in which you explain the difficulties might be caused by the Sultan in granting a fresh lease for the official record of the result of the Aden delimitation, and suggesting that it might be sufficient if Mr Fitzmaurice were to compare the maps at His Majesty's Embassy with those in the possession of the Ottoman Minister for War.

I gather that your Excellency is of opinion that the establishment of the identity of the two sets of maps in this manner would constitute a sufficient record of the frontier delimitation, and, in these circumstances, His Majesty's Government think it unnecessary that you should press for a more formal ratification of the arrangement.

1410, etc.

(Signed) EDWARD GREY

[8531]

No. 42.

Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 132. Confidential.)

Constantinople, February 28, 1903

WITH reference to my despatch No. 120, Confidential, of the 25th instant, I have reason to believe that there has lately been a considerable amount of friction between Ferid Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the expeditionary force in the Yemen, and the Special Commission of Inspection under Ferik Ferid Pasha, who succeeded Shaki Pasha. The Commission apparently endeavoured to interfere with Ferid Pasha's operations, the result of which has been that he has been obliged to send his troops from Suva to Hodoudah, whence they have been striving to obtain permission to return to Saana.

The Commander-in-chief, however, is maintaining his point, as would appear from the following telegram which he addressed to the Grand Vizier on the 18th

"Ferid Pasha telegraphs to me from Hodeidah that he is in bad health. He only accepted his present post out of deference to the Imperial wishes. As I am occupied with the military operations he will, for the present, remain at Hodeidah and attend to matters connected with the railway line, ice factory, entouments, &c. The remaining members of the Commission, with the exception of the Nakh of the vilayet, left for Hodeidah two days ago.

I have, &c

(Signed) N R O'CONNOR

185621

No. 46.

India Office to Foreign Office — (Received March 13.)

IN continuation of this Office letter of the 22nd ultimo, and with reference to Foreign Office letter of the 1st instant, the Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 22nd ultimo, relative to the proposed visit of the Wahabi Amir to the Pirate Coast and Oman.

India Office, March 13, 1908



Inclosure 1 in No. 46

Major Cox to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bushre, February 4, 1906.

In reply to Foreign Department letter, dated the 5th December, 1905, re the possibility of an endeavour by Abdul Aziz bin-Saood to visit the Pirate Coast, I have the honour to attach copy of a communication which has passed in that connection between myself and the Political Agent, Kuwait.

2. Even allowing a modicum of discount upon the views expressed by Sheikh Mubarak, the probability is that they are primarily well founded.

3. At the same time the question of the spread of Wahabi influence is one with regard to which we need to maintain a very vigilant attitude, and I should have discussed Government on the subject on my recent return from Basra had I not found the Foreign Department letter under reply awaiting me at Bushre.

4. The Sheikh of Abu Dhabi, at a confidential interview which he asked me to give him on the "Lawrence," spoke to me very strongly on this question.

The Government of India will have learnt from paragraph 2 of Captain Travers' previous communication that Sheikh Zayed was sufficiently disturbed by Bin Saood's move to proceed to Muscat and discuss the situation with the Sultan and that he is still much exercised at heart.

It is not surprising that being, as he is, the leader of the Huwaili of Northern Oman (as the Sultan of Muscat is further south), and having been himself instrumental in the final extinction of Wahabi influence from Basra and the Pirate Coast in 1870, Sheikh Zayed, and his kinsman the Sheikh of Dubai, should regard the contingency of the appearance of Bin Saood with much concern.

5. Nor is there, on the other hand, much cause for wonder if as is the case, Ghafiri section of the Trucial Chiefs, that is to say, all except Abu Dhabi and Dubai should regard Bin Saood's overtures with favour, if not with pleasurable excitement. An indirect result of them has been that Sharjah and Hamriyah, and Son Umair-el-Kowen, who have respectively for a long time been on strained terms with the support of the Beni Katab Bedouins in a quarrel with Sheikh Zayed, on the Basra side an occasion for reconciliation among themselves, as Ghafir, for united resistance to Sheikh Zayed, whom, as the most powerful Chief on the coast and as a Huwaili, they regard with jealousy and distrust.

I did my best to impress upon Sheikh Zayed the folly of inducing a combination of the other Sheikhs against himself by proceeding to extremities with the Beni Katab, and I am glad to hope from the Residency Agent's recent reports that he has found a pacific solution of his quarrel with them, so that any cause for actual unrest is for the present removed. I think, however, that I have said enough to show that the progress of Bin Saood's fortunes will be keenly watched on the Pirate Coast by all parties.

6. Sheikh Zayed was very anxious that the Government of India should take steps to prevent any movement of Bin Saood towards the Pirate Coast, and that imperative orders should be issued to the Ghafiri Sheikhs not to intrigue with him.

Beyond the sign which we have already made through Sheikh Mubarak, as now reported to me by the Political Agent, Kuwait, that the Government of India approve, I see no objection to my giving all the Trucial Sheikhs, both Ghafiri and Huwaili, to understand that on the grounds that general unrest prejudicial to our commercial interests on the coast would inevitably result, the Government of India would not view with complacency the intrigues of any of them with Bin Saood.

The existing impression on the Trucial Coast undoubtedly is that as long as Bin Saood restricts his movements to the land, the British Government will, as heretofore, refrain from interfering in any way; but the political situation has been so much modified in the last thirty-five years, that I can hardly think that in regard to the present problem a strict adherence to tradition would be a safe policy for us to pursue.

I beg to be favoured with the views and instructions of Government as early as may be possible.

• October 29, 1905.

Inclosure 2 in No. 46.

Major Cox to Captain Knox.

January 17, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a communication from the Government of India regarding the reported ambition of Bin Saood to visit the Pirate Coast and Oman. This was one of the matters which I had hoped to discuss with you personally at Basra last week, but, as you know, I was prevented from proceeding there at the last minute.

2. The position is briefly this:—

Abdul Aziz bin-Abdul Rahman I. shown by letters which he has addressed to some of the Trucial Chiefs that he is desirous of attempting to re-establish the old Wahabi influence which his father formerly acquired in Oman, and of paying a preliminary visit to the Pirate Coast in connection with that aspiration.

His interference in the affairs of the Trucial Chiefs or with subjects of the Sultan of Muscat would obviously be a most undesirable contingency, and the Government of India consider that our best means of preventing it is through the medium of Sheikh Mubarak. Hence their desire that you should sound him on the subject.

In order that it may not appear that we attach very great importance to the reports at present existing, it would be better that you should in the first instance discuss the matter with Sheikh Mubarak, not as if you were acting on the instructions from Government, but as if on a casual reference from me. You might tell him, as is the case, that during a tour on the Trucial Coast from which I have just returned, I heard from some of the Sheikhs that Abdul Aziz bin-Saood had been writing to them about a visit which he said that he contemplated paying to their country, and then ask him if he thinks that Bin Saood seriously contemplates such a thing. I could go on to say that you cannot suppose that Government would approve of an interference by Bin Saood in the affairs of Chiefs in Treaty relation with us, and that you would advise Sheikh Mubarak, as our friend and that of Bin Saood, to discourage the latter from the project should Bin Saood consult him.

Please report as early as possible the results of your interview.

Inclosure 3 in No. 46.

Captain Knox to Major Cox.

Camp Jahra, January 19, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential letter, dated Basra, the 17th instant, on the subject of Bin Saood's projected visit to the Pirate Coast and Oman.

2. This morning I took the opportunity of discussing the matter with Sheikh Mubarak on the lines indicated at the close of paragraph 2 of your letter quoted above.

3. Sheikh Mubarak informed me that he had heard of Bin Saood's plans, which regarded as a mere attempt to extort money from the various coastal Chiefs; that he had written already to Bin Saood, pointing out to him the impolicy of a confession, on the part of a Ruler, to lack of funds; and, further, reminding him that Bin Rashid was not only scotched, not killed; that Bin Saood's power in Nejd was anything but finally established, that he had neither funds nor transport for a policy of aggression in the direction of Oman, and that the first fruits of such an attempt would be that Sheikh Mubarak would break off relations with him.

4. The Sheikh, in conclusion, said that he did not suppose that, after this letter, Bin Saood would persist in his design, though Sheikh Mubarak would not undertake to answer for the opinions and policy of an ignorant savage.

5. The Sheikh and I were quite alone at this interview, and I have done my best to convey accurately the substance of the remarks which were made. It is clear that Sheikh Mubarak by no means approves entirely of Bin Saood; he complains that there is a want of system and organization in El-Riadh, and that Bin Saood is not the man to attain to the position of his forefathers. Recently the Sheikh has been constantly complaining of the degradation of the Arabs and the deterioration of their character outside the limits of his own territories; but I have been unable, so far, to learn what recent occurrences have given rise to these complaints.





Major Grey to Political Resident, Bushire

(Confidential)

Sir,

Muscat, January 23, 1906.

I have the honour to refer to telegram dated the 18th instant from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, and to this Office letter dated the 18th June, 1900, which was forwarded to Government by Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball with his letter dated the 30th idem.

On the authority of His Highness the Sultan, that the French flag holders received no protection papers beyond the "titres de navigation." His Highness assures me that these "titres" were, in fact, the only authorization papers ever issued to them.

According to M. Laronce, whenever an Arab presented himself at a French Consulate or Colonial Office and asked for a "titre de navigation," he was given them on payment of the sum demanded, provided that he satisfied the conditions specified by Major Cox in the same paragraph of his letter. Should the applicant already have been in possession of a vessel, he was granted one for another without question, his name having been registered as a French protégé on his first application.

These "titres de navigation" were renewed yearly, as a rule at the Office from which the original had been obtained, but in the event of the owner or master of a dhow being unable to appear at that Office on the expiry of the year, upon his presenting himself at another Colony or Consulate, either

1. A note of "prolongation" was made on the reverse of his "titre" to cover the period required for him to reach his "port d'attache" (see Inclosure 8 to Major Cox's letter under reference);

2. The same "titre" was made tenable for another year; or

3. A "renouvellement" was given by the officer in charge of the Colonial or Consular Office at which the applicant appeared.

I inquired from M. Laronce as to the view taken in cases where the owner or master of a dhow had either neglected or been unable to present himself at any Consular or Colonial Office on the expiry of the year. He replied, "Tant pis pour eux." I suggested then that, in such a case, should the dhow suffer injury after the expiration of the period specified in the "titre" the owner would not be in a position to apply to the French Government for assistance. M. Laronce replied that certainly he would if he could produce his old paper, or at least prove he was a French protégé.

It is well here to notice briefly the issue of "titre." No. M 3 (Inclosure 8 to Major Cox's letter). My predecessor remarks that His Highness Khamsi must have had French papers before and let them lapse, thereby reverting to his original status as a subject of the Sultan of Oman. He may have let his "titre" lapse; but, from the point of view, the fact of his having done so would not have affected his status as a protégé.

3. Our difficulty, then, is that it is impossible to ascertain where and when each owner first obtained his registration as a French protégé and authorization to fly the flag except from the French Colonial and Consular records themselves, as all the "titres de navigation" granted before 1893 have long ceased to exist; and we are now paying the price of having allowed this abuse to remain for so long practically uncontested.

4. In regard to the replacement of existing dhows by authorized flagholders, I suggest that, now that there is a prospect of the number and names of such persons being definitely established, all question of their possessing any right of extraterritoriality which would exempt them from the jurisdiction of their lawful Sovereign has been removed, and that the authorizations, at the most, are peculiar to the persons concerned during their lifetime only and are not to be inherited. It does not seem to matter very much, either from the point of view of His Highness the Sultan or from that of His Majesty's Government, whether the authorization is held to be general, and a limited number of dhows allowed to be maintained and replaced during the lifetime of each owner or whether the authorization is held to be strictly limited to specific dhows. Not only does a dhow ordinarily last for a large number of years, but it must be remembered that it would be extremely difficult for His Highness to prove to the satisfaction of the French Consul that any particular vessel

had ceased to exist and had been replaced. Every effort would be made, not only by the French Consul but also by the French Government, to conceal the fact, and it would not be likely that the Sultan would care to prove a subject's guilt without substantial proof of his guilt, for more reasons than one. On the other hand, the death of an owner it is impossible to conceal for any length of time, and His Highness would have no difficulty in punishing any subject of his in whose possession one of the deceased owner's dhows was found should it be sailing under a French flag. For these, as well as other reasons, I beg respectfully to reiterate the suggestion submitted for consideration on the 4th January.

5. M. Laronce informs me that he has not yet received all the information required by the French Government for the issue of the Proclamation. It was still awaited so long ago as the 8th November. I am, however, assured that the French Government is prepared to accept the list as it stands, and that the French Consul at Muscat will be eliminated by the French, who, after making all possible enquiries, will be able to suggest that the French Government be pressed to expedite the collection of the required particulars, as the Proclamation to be issued by the Sultan

will be eliminated by the French, who, after making all possible enquiries, will be able to suggest that the French Government be pressed to expedite the collection of the required particulars, as the Proclamation to be issued by the Sultan have nothing to lose by delaying the issue of the Proclamation.

6. M. Laronce also informs me that there are some dhow owners possessing authorization to fly the French flag whose names are not in the list referred to above.

7. A copy of this letter is being forwarded to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. G. GREY, Major,  
Officiating Political Agent and His Britannic Majesty's  
Consul, Muscat.

9113

India Office to Foreign Office — (Received March 15.)

Sir,

India Office, March 14, 1906.

IN continuation of my letter of the 17th and 30th January last, relative to the subject of the "titres de navigation" issued by the French Consul at Muscat, I am, Sir, in reply to your letter of the 17th inst., to forward to you a copy of further correspondence on the subject; and also copy of a letter from the French Consul at Muscat, dated the 14th inst., in reply to the above correspondence.

It appears, from the report of the Political Officer at Dhala of the 18th January, 1906, that no Turkish policemen have been sent from Radd into Rubat territory, and that he advised the Rubat Sheikh to reply to invitations received from the British Government to visit the British Consulate at Dhala.

Subject to Sir E. Grey's concurrence, Mr. Morley proposes to express his agreement in the view of the Government of India that the French Consul's letter of the 18th January last was suitable.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 49

Government of Bombay to Government of India.

Bombay Castle, January 31, 1906.

WITH reference to the correspondence ending with my telegram dated the 22nd January last, I am, Sir, in reply to your letter of the 17th inst., to forward to you a copy of further correspondence on the subject of the "titres de navigation" issued by the French Consul at Muscat, and also copy of a letter from the French Consul at Muscat, dated the 14th inst., in reply to the above correspondence.

Resident, Aden, and of its accompaniment, regarding the alleged ingress of the Turkish policemen into Rubenten, Upper Yaffa, and to express regret that the correspondence forwarded with this Department letter, dated the 7th December, 1905, gave a misleading representation of what is now stated to have really occurred.

2. In this connection, I am to invite a reference to paragraphs 11 to 19 of Mr. Pitmaurice's letter of the 30th April, 1905, addressed to the Government of India, as regards the definition of the north-east boundary-line of the Aden hinterland from Lakamat-ash-Shub to the desert, and to observe that there are indications that it will be essential to come to a clearer understanding with the tribes on the north-east frontier (especially with Beda), but that it is impossible at present to make any specific proposals.

Inclosure 2 in No. 49

Major Jacob to First Assistant Resident, Aden

Dihala, January 18, 1906.

IN continuation of my letter of the 11th November last, I have the honour to state that the ingress of the Turks into Rubenten was actually never made. It would have been more correct to have stated that, seeing the proximity of Turks in Juban and receiving from the Mudir of Rada an invitation to come to him, the Sheikh of Dihala feared an invasion of their part, and so addressed us asking how the Turkish not would be treated.

The said Sheikh has again written to me, and inclosed two letters addressed to him from the Mudir of Juban (this time from his son, in which they are asked to meet the Turks and make friendship).

I have advised them, in reply, to assure their correspondents that Rubenten is within the British sphere.

The Sheikh of Dihala detest Turkish rule, and the Sheikh of Juban likewise, and, therefore, Government may rest assured that any incursion of Turkish intriguers would be unwelcome to the former, while the latter (of Juban) would submit only under strong protest, as they are aware that the tract is under the Kaza of Rada.

Memorandum by the Political Resident, Aden

Copy forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary to Government in the Political Department, Bombay, with reference to the Office telegram dated the 20th instant.

Aden, January 21, 1906

Inclosure 3 in No. 49

Government of India to Mr. Morley

(Telegraphic)

ADEN from

My telegram of the 20th ultimo.

We regard as suitable the action taken by Major Jacob with reference to the Rubenten question (vide letter dated the 31st ultimo from Government of Bombay, and inclosure, copies of which were inclosed with Secretary's letter of the 15th instant).

[9222]

India Office to Foreign Office—(Received March 16.)

With reference to this Office letter of the 13th instant, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 15th instant, relative to the proposed visit of the Waliabi Amir to the Pirats Coast and Oman.

India Office, March 16, 1906

Inclosure in No 50

Government of India to Mr. Morley

(Telegraphic.) P.

March 16, 1906.

Cox's letter, dated the 4th February, forwarded with weekly letter from Foreign Secretary, dated the 22nd February, Ibn Saud of Nejd.

We propose to authorize Cox to issue warning to Tribal Arab Chiefs proposed in second clause of paragraph 5 of above-mentioned letter, pending reply to our letter of the 11th January.

[9113]

No. 51

Foreign Office to India Office

Foreign Office, March 23, 1906.

Sir,

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th inst. the subject of the reported entry of Turkish policemen into Rubenten territory.

I am to inform you that Sir E. Grey concurs in Mr Secretary Morley's proposal by the Political Officer at Dihala in this matter was suitable.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) E. GORST

[10068]

No. 52.

India Office to Foreign Office—(Received March 22.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 15th February relative to the arrival at Mafala of a Turkish Revenue official, and the consequent unrest caused by his arrival on the side of the border and within Mansuri limits.

India Office, March 21, 1906

Inclosure 1 in No. 52

Government of Bombay to Government of India

(Confidential)

Bombay Castle, February 9, 1906.

IN continuation of my telegram dated the 28th January, 1906, I am directed to forward to the Government of India a copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 15th February, relative to the arrival at Mafala of a Turkish Revenue official and the consequent unrest caused by his arrival.



amongst the members of the Shujaiya tribe who reside on the British side of the border and within Mansuri limits. From a subsequent telegram, dated the 3rd February, 1906, from the Political Resident, Aden, a copy of which is inclosed, it will be observed that the uneasiness of the tribes has subsided for the present. I am also to send a copy of my reply to the latter.

Inclosure 2 in No. 52

Major-General Mason to Government of Bombay

(Confidential.)

Aden Residency, January 28, 1906.

WITH reference to correspondence ending with your letter dated the 11th September last, and to my telegram of the 27th instant, concerning the presence of a Turkish Revenue officer at Mufalia, and the subsequent unrest amongst certain of the Subahis who reside in that vicinity, I have the honour to report that, upon receipt of your letter in last September, the Abdali Sultan was addressed with a view to verifying the complaint of Turkish encroachment upon Sha'abi lands, and of the wrongful collection of dues at the Al Doka Custom house.

2. On the 23rd October a reply was received from the Abdali Sultan, a copy of which, and of its accompaniment, is attached, and it was not till the 8th instant that any further communication was received from him on the subject. The Abdali Sultan then forwarded a letter which he had received from the Sheikh Abdul Kawi-bin-Muhammed of Sha'ab, of which, and of my reply to which, copies are also attached.

3. Upon the strength of this communication the Abdali Sultan took it upon himself to write a letter to Kayed No'man, an Arab subordinate of the Turkish Revenue Department at Mufalia, and he also wrote to the Akds of the Sha'abi country council. Copies of those letters, and of the Abdali Sultan's letter, dated the 17th instant, are attached.

4. On the 20th instant another letter was received from the Abdali Sultan, enclosing a letter received by him from Kayed No'man, and about the same time further letters were received from certain Sheikhs of the Jurabi, the Mansuri of the Sunawi, and also Sheikh Shalir bin Saf of the Mansuri tribe, which tend to show that the arrival of the Turkish Revenue official at Mufalia has led to a certain amount of local excitement. I attach copies of the letters here referred to, and also of the replies issued to them.

5. A further letter has this morning been received from Sheikh Abdul Kawi-bin-Muhammed of Sha'ab, from which it appears that, so far as Sha'ab is concerned, the ferment has for the present subsided. It will be observed from the attached copy that the custom-house at Al Doka is still complained of.

6. It may be hoped that the Mansuri Sheikh will, upon receipt of my last letter to the effect that the Turkish official will exercise sufficient discretion in the matter of the collection of their dues to avoid any serious complications.

7. The Shujaiya sub-tribe, from which the Turkish official is anxious to collect revenue, reside partly on the Turkish side of the border, and partly in the Wadi Sha'ab, and at Shabab, in the Mansuri limits. The whole sub-tribe really recognize a simple petty Sheikh named Ahmed No'man, who at present, I am informed, is residing at Sha'ab, and upon the arrival of the Turkish Mudir at Mufalia, it seems that the Shujaiya have appealed to the Jurabi and the Mansuri Sheikhs to protect them against any undue exactions.

8. I am informed that the number of Turkish troops in the vicinity is approximately eighty with two guns, but I am not in a position to vouch for the absolute accuracy of this statement. From the same source I am informed that, with the Jurabis and the Mansuri, there are approximately 300 Arabs and a few petty Sheikhs, such as the Sheikh of Doka, &c.

9. I trust that no friction will now arise, and I will report again on the subject of the Al Doka Custom-house when I receive more information.

10. The Abdali Sultan is a fairly convenient intermediary in the affair, and if I sent a Political Officer to the spot to hold an independent inquiry it would be necessary to furnish him with a fairly strong escort, both as a set-off vis-à-vis the Turks, and as a sedative to the local Subahi excitement.

Inclosure 3 in No. 52.

Sultan Sir Ahmed Fadhl to Major-General Mason.

(After compliments.)

22 Sha'ban, 1323 (October 31, 1905).

WE have received your letter dated the 17th October 1905, and, in reply, we inform your Honour that we have written a letter to Sheikh Salim Abdul Wahab, copy of which we herewith forward to you. We also wrote a similar letter to the Shujaiya, and expect their reply; as soon as we receive their reply we will let you know of the facts.

May you know of this.

Inclosure 4 in No. 52.

Sultan Sir Ahmed Fadhl to Sheikh Salim Abdul Wahab.

(After compliments.)

20 Sha'ban, 1323 (October 19, 1905).

WE inform you O Had, that Sha'ab, its population and limits have been included in the British Government's limits. We have heard that the Kutabees are troubling them by stealing from their fields and cattle, and encroaching upon their lands in an unlawful manner. They also precluded them from the bazaars. Moreover, the Mudir of Mufalia is keeping some soldiers at the post at Doka, who levy taxes from the Yumtich and Yabus. We have now written this letter, and request that you will inform us of the name of the soldiers posted at Doka, their number, and of what tribe they belong to. Please also let us know what is the reason for precluding the people of Sha'ab from entering your markets, the cause of incursion and plunder made by your people upon their cultivation and cattle, and what is the reason which prevents your uncle and others, who unlawfully lay their hands on Wadi Sha'ab, from getting the matter settled by the Shari'a (Mahomedan law). Your reply with all the particulars asked for is requested. We send you this by a special messenger, and request your reply by his hand without fail. Please do not detain him, and salutation.

Inclosure 5 in No. 52.

Sultan Sir Ahmed Fadhl to Major-General Mason.

(After compliments.)

11 Al K'ida, 1323 (January 6, 1906).

WE inform your Honour that Sheikh Abdul Kawi bin Mohamed al Sha'abi has received a letter from his relatives at Sha'ab, informing him that they received news from the Kohati to the effect that the Mudir named Hasan Sahri, the Mudir of the Hilar district, is threatening to bring the camp (soldiers) to them, and cause their houses to be pulled down. We send you the letter which was received by Sheikh Abdul Kawi, herein inclosed, by the hand of the messenger who was dispatched by the people of Sha'ab for your perusal. If you write any letters on the subject, they may be addressed to the Kawan Makam of the Hojaria Sheikh Ahmed-bin-Kasim, and to the above Mudir Hasan Sahri, and these letters might be sent with the bearer.

May you be preserved.

Inclosure 6 in No. 52.

Sheikh Sa'id Abd-Ahmed and others to Sheikh Abdul Kawi.

(After compliments.)

11 Al K'ida, 1323 (January 6, 1906).

WE have received your letter of the 1st of the month, and we are glad to hear of firewood to be kept ready below your house; keep your mind at ease, we shall do so; and if the wood is scarce, we would remove the woods of the house; but there is any amount of wood.

O father, we inform you that the Turkish troops are at Lahjar, in the company of Hasan Effendi, the Mudir of Hifan. We received news from the Kohati and the Shujaiya, of threatening and alarming nature, to the effect that the Mudir is swearing

by the word of God that he shall not have a stone at Sha'ab and not a stone. We asked about the reasons of this, and the offence which we have committed, and we have been told that Sheikh Abdul Kawi is speaking ill of the Turks, and condemning their acts, whereas he, on the other hand, speaks well of the British Government, their justice, clemency, and good care they take of their subjects, and the protection they afford to those who place themselves under their protection, and he illustrates the Turks to the reverse of these qualifications. According to the story of the Kohatis and Shujais, the Mudir intends to put Sha'ab to destruction, and plunder the population, and that he states: "Let the British Government be useful to Abdul Kawi and protect him." Some people advise us to fly, and others tell us to ward ourselves of this danger by the aid of the Mudir to put his army at Sha'ab and save ourselves. We replied, we cannot give any decisive reply, as we have an Akil. You may come to us immediately, as we are much alarmed, and do not sleep, but keep awake and count the stars in the sky on account of this fearful news reported to us by the people. Had not your son Abdul Latif been with us, you will not find us at Sha'ab, but we are taking shelter under your son Abdul Latif against the many stories imported by the people.

Inclosure 7 in No. 52

Major General Mason to Sultan Sir Ahmed Fadhl

(After compliments.) Aden Residency, January 13, 1900.  
WE have, O friend, received your letter dated the 11th Al Kida, 1323 (6th January, 1900), concerning the affairs of Sha'ab, and forwarding to us a letter received by Sheikh Abdul Kawi bin-Mohamed from certain of his relatives.

We feel sure that these persons are alarming themselves unnecessarily, and that no such action as they write of is likely to be committed by the officials of the Turkish Government, with which we are in friendly alliance, and in conjunction with whom we have only recently demarcated the boundary between their territories and those under our protection. Please advise Sheikh Abdul Kawi to warn his relations not to listen to idle tales told them by the Kohatis.

In this connection, we would remind you, O friend, that we wrote to you in August and October last about Sha'ab, and that in our letter of the 17th October, 1900, we asked you to find for us in detail what was going on at Al Duka and the district of Sha'ab.

Will you please refer to that letter, and now be so good as to arrange, if possible, to secure us really trustworthy information in the matter.

If you cannot arrange this please let us know at once, and we will inform the Government, and suggest some other arrangement.

Inclosure 8 in No. 52

Sultan Sir Ahmed Fadhl to Major-General M

(After compliments.) 22 Al Kida, 1323 (January 17, 1900).  
WE have received your letter dated the 13th January, 1900, and, in reply, we inform your Honour that we have perused a letter that was received by Sheikh Abdul Kawi Ash Shabi from Sha'ab, purporting that the Turkish authorities have not done anything in regard to Sha'ab. The Arabs, amongst themselves, are creating disturbances, and, on the contrary, the Turks have already proclaimed that Sha'ab is "Hura"—that is to say, exempted from taxation. Under the above circumstances, O friend, we have dispatched two letters (copies attached for your information) to some of the Akils of that country.

As to your Honour, we do not consider it befitting for you to communicate with low and unworthy persons of Sha'ab. It will be better if you would address the Mutessarif, or the Kaimakam of the Hujara, viz., Ahmed-bin-Kasim Hason.

May you be preserved.

Inclosure 9 in No. 52

Sultan Sir Ahmed Fadhl to Kayed No'man.

22 Al Kida, 1323 (January 17, 1900).

WE inform you that Sha'ab and its limits are part of the Subaibi limits, which are included within the British protection. Its limits were surveyed with the Subaibi country. You the Mudir of the Sublime Government should be careful not to make any disturbance in the limits of Sha'ab, and to prevent any interference between the Turkish and British Governments. We have already established a station at Sha'ab, and the subjects of the Shujais are living with you at Mafala, Sahar, and Hajat-al-Ashar. If you are able to do so, because they are in your limits. You may let all the Akils of the tribes know individually regarding Wadi Susab, and that they should not create any disturbance with you. You should prevent them from such interference before any difficulty arises.

Inclosure 10 in No. 52

Sultan Sir Ahmed Fadhl to Sheikhs of Sha'ab and others.

22 Al Kida, 1323 (January 17, 1900)

(After compliments.)  
WE inform you that Sha'ab and its limits are part of the Subaibi limits, and are included within the British protection. It is not for the Turkish subjects or soldiers to interfere with you unjustly, you may refer your complaints to us, and we will submit it to the Political Resident at Aden. Every one must let his relations know about this: mind any contradiction.

Inclosure 11 in No. 52

Sultan Sir Ahmed Fadhl to Major-General Mason.

22 Al Kida, 1323 (January 20, 1900)

(After compliments.)  
With reference to our previous letter regarding Sha'ab we inform your Honour that we have now received a letter from Sheikh Kayed No'man, herewith inclosed, for your perusal. Please let us know of the answer we should give him. At present we have asked him to excuse us as we are busy. We shall send him a reply as soon as you let us know of what you desire and propose.

May you be preserved.

Inclosure 12 in No. 52

Sheikh Kayed No'man to Sultan Sir Ahmed Fadhl.

27 Al Kida, 1323 (January 22, 1900).

(After compliments.)  
WE have received your letter—kind and honoured letter—in which you state that Sha'ab and its limits are part of the Subaibi limits, and are included within the British protection, and was already surveyed and included in the Subaibi limits, and that we the Mudir of the Sublime Government should be careful not to make any disturbance in the limits of Sha'ab. We have already established a station at Sha'ab, and the subjects of the Shujais are living with you at Mafala, Sahar, and Hajat-al-Ashar. If you are able to do so, because they are in your limits. You may let all the Akils of the tribes know individually regarding Wadi Susab, and that they should not create any disturbance with you. You should prevent them from such interference before any difficulty arises.

The Subaibis are now concentrating on the frontier with the intention of necessarily creating disturbance. It is advisable that some sensible men should be present, so that the limit of Sha'ab and the Shujais may be distinguished before any difficulty arises. We have already established a station at Sha'ab, and the subjects of the Shujais are living with you at Mafala, Sahar, and Hajat-al-Ashar. If you are able to do so, because they are in your limits. You may let all the Akils of the tribes know individually regarding Wadi Susab, and that they should not create any disturbance with you. You should prevent them from such interference before any difficulty arises.



interfering with the Shujais, whereas the Mudir is determined not to return or leave the place without orders from his superior officers. This is a reply to your Honour's letter.

May you be protected and overwhelmed with salams and blessings.

Inclosure 13 in No. 52

*Sayed Al Hashmi and Sheikh Saeed Al Jurabi to Major-General Mason*

(After compliments.)

[Undated.]

WE inform your Honour that the Turkish Government are on the extreme border of Mafala and we are staying on the edge of the border, that is, every one of us is on the extreme end of his own limit. We come to know that the Shujais are in communication with the Turks, and that the Turks allege that they (Shujais) are their subjects, and intend to exact dues from them, but they are not willing to pay the same. We further learn that Sheikh Saleh-bin-Ahmed the Mansuri went up to the border of the limit of the Shujais with his force, and also Saeed Al Jurabi is at the border, in the Husa fortlet of Mafala, in the place called Al Mowkib, near Sukal Joma'a. He is staying there while we are staying on our own border. We send this for your information, and salutation.

Inclosure 14 in No. 52

*Sheikh Shahr bin-Saif to Major-General Mason*

Al Kida 1323 (January 1906).

WE inform you that the Turks have reached Mafala. We prevented them from interfering with Sha'ab, but they are not willing, and want to impose duty. This is our information to you. We are now encamping there, till we receive your reply. Please send us an early reply about Sha'ab. We are awaiting your reply there.

Inclosure 15 in No. 52

*Sayed Ahmed Saeed to Major-General Mason*

Al Kida 1323 (January 9, 1906).

WE inform you that the Turkish troops of the Sublime Government are now encamping at Mafala.

Inclosure 16 in No. 52

*Captain Hancock (for Political Resident), to Sultan Sir Ahmed Fadhil.*

(After compliments.)

Aden Residency, January 26, 1906.

WE have, O friend, received your letter, dated the 22nd Al Kida, 1323 (17th January, 1906), and its accompaniments, concerning the affairs of Sha'a. From that we gather that recent rumours of Turkish encroachment there are really without foundation.

From your further letter, dated the 28th Al Kida, 1323 (23rd January, 1906), and its accompaniments, we gather that the Turkish authorities only desire to collect certain revenues on their own Shujais subjects, and that this measure has somewhat alarmed the Shujais, who are under our protection, and other Subahli tribes in the vicinity.

It would be well, O friend, if you would write to the Akils of these tribes, and tell them to disperse, and not to be alarmed!

They have only to address us in the event of any dues being improperly claimed from them, and they can depend upon us, in due course, protecting their interests, and effecting any restitution that may be rightful.

As to Kayid Nu'man, he will, of course, be well advised to counsel the Mudir of the Turkish Government to exercise the greatest care to avoid any sort of infringement of the rights decided by the recent Boundary Commission.

We thank you for the information you have sent us in this matter. We should further be interested to hear from you whether the Turkish officials are now actually collecting any dues at Al Doka.  
May you be preserved.

Inclosure 17 in No. 52

*Captain Hancock (for Political Resident) to Sheikh Shahr bin-Saif*

Aden Residency, January 26, 1906.

(After compliments.)

WE have, O friend, received your letter, dated Zil Kida (January), concerning the Shujais. We understand that the Shujais are in communication with the Turks, and that the Turks allege that they (Shujais) are their subjects, and intend to exact dues from them, but they are not willing to pay the same. We further learn that Sheikh Saleh-bin-Ahmed the Mansuri went up to the border of the limit of the Shujais with his force, and also Saeed Al Jurabi is at the border, in the Husa fortlet of Mafala, in the place called Al Mowkib, near Sukal Joma'a. He is staying there while we are staying on our own border. We send this for your information, and salutation.

O friend, there is no reason for you to be alarmed or to keep forces, &c., on the border.

In the event of any dues being wrongfully demanded or ever recovered from any of the Shujais under our protection, you have only to refer the matter to us, and we will see that their interests are protected, and that restitution is made in due course if necessary.

You should, therefore, O friend, dismiss your men to their homes, and merely inform us of any wrongful claims which may be made. We do not think any will be made.

It is most desirable that there should be no sort of breach of the peace over the matter.

May you be preserved.

Inclosure 18 in No. 52

*Captain Hancock (for Political Resident) to Sayed Al Hashmi and Sheikh Saeed Al Jurabi.*

Aden Residency, January 26, 1906.

WE have received your letter concerning the Shujais. We understand that the Shujais are in communication with the Turks, and that the Turks allege that they (Shujais) are their subjects, and intend to exact dues from them, but they are not willing to pay the same. We further learn that Sheikh Saleh-bin-Ahmed the Mansuri went up to the border of the limit of the Shujais with his force, and also Saeed Al Jurabi is at the border, in the Husa fortlet of Mafala, in the place called Al Mowkib, near Sukal Joma'a. He is staying there while we are staying on our own border. We send this for your information, and salutation.

O friend, there is no cause for alarm or any excitement.

Meanwhile there is no cause for alarm or excitement.

May you be preserved.

Inclosure 19 in No. 52.

*Captain Hancock (for Political Resident) to Sayed Ahmed Saeed*

(After compliments.)

[Undated.]

WE have received your letter, dated the 14th Al Kida, 1323 (9th January, 1906). We gather that the Turkish officials have some revenue collections to make from the Shujais who are in their territory, and we feel sure that they will make no wrongful claims on the Shujais who are under our protection.

Should any wrongful claims be made, it is only necessary to inform us, and we will take necessary measures. Meanwhile there is no cause for alarm or excitement.

May you be preserved.

Inclosure 20 in No. 22

Sheikh Abdul Kawi-ben-Mahomed Al Sha'bi to Ali Jaffer

(After compliments.)

[Undated]

WE inform you that the fear entertained by the people of Sha'ab has now passed away by the favour of God and the five descendants of the Prophet. There remains now only the mischievous customs post.

We inform you that we are involved in debts at Lahej; the Id is approaching, but we have no enjoyment. We are sending you our cousin, who intends to marry in the Id days. We have sent him to you in order that you may get him something from Government.

Inclosure 21 in No. 22

Major-General Mason to Government of Bombay

(Telegraphic.)

Aden, February 8, 1906

PLEASE refer to your telegram of the 30th January last, regarding the Turkish Revenue officer and the Subaihi Sheikh have consented to refrain from trespassing, and to refer dispute to their respective Governments. Consequently the Manauri and other Subaihis have withdrawn from the frontier, and it is reported that the Turkish officials have also withdrawn. But it is reported that trouble may again arise after the Mahomedan festival known as the Id.

Inclosure 22 in No. 22

Government of Bombay to Major-General Mason

(Confidential.)

Bombay Castle, February 9, 1906

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 28th January, 1906, regarding the arrival at Mafalin of a Turkish Revenue official and the consequent unrest caused amongst the members of the Shuyail tribe who reside on the British side of the border and within Manauri limits, and to state that Government approve of your action in communicating with the people on the British side of the border in terms calculated to allay their apprehensions.

[10062]

No. 22

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a despatch to the Government of India, Secret, dated the 16th instant, and inclosures, relative to the murder of Bahreemese near Katif.

India Office, March 21, 1906

Inclosure in No. 22

Mr. Morley to Government of India

(Secret.)

My Lord,

India Office, March 18, 1906

WITH reference to your Excellency's Secret letter of the 4th January last, relating to the question of obtaining reparation for the murder of certain Bahreemese by members of the Behaish tribe, I inclose herewith a copy of further correspondence with the Foreign Office on the subject.

\* See Nos. 20 and 34

2. Your Excellency will see that His Majesty's Government approve the second alternative, and do not intend to pursue the first. I am, &c.

3. Sheikh Esa should at the same time be informed that His Majesty's Government will not countenance any excessive action on his part in pursuance of this policy.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN MORLEY

[10128]

No. 54.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 23.)

India Office, March 21, 1906.

WITH reference to Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 6th December regarding a proposed loan to the Sultan of Muscat in connection with the reorganization of the Muscat Customs, and to subsequent correspondence ending with the letter from this Office of the 17th January, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to transmit, to be laid before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of further papers on the subject of the financial position of the Sultan, which have been received from India, and of a telegram from the Government of India, dated the 12th March, proposing that, in the circumstances described, a small advance of 20,000 rupees might be made to the Sultan, repayable from his subsidy, without political conditions.

I am also to inclose copy of a further letter from Major Grey, relating to the attitude of M. Larocque since his return to Muscat.

Mr. Morley sees no objection to the advance to the Sultan as now proposed by the Government of India, and, subject to Sir Edward Grey's concurrence, would be prepared to approve it.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) A. G. DILLON

Inclosure 1 in No. 54.

Major Grey to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.)

Rushdie, February 9, 1906

PLEASE see letter from Major Grey, Muscat, dated the 5th February, and previous correspondence. As His Majesty's Government see objections to raising the question of the reorganization of the Muscat Customs on the basis of a substantial loan before the conclusion of the Hague Award negotiations, and in view of the difficulties now by Major Grey, a small loan up to 20,000 rupees may be allowed discretion to give the Sultan a small loan up to 20,000 rupees without *quid pro quo*, rather than that The Hague negotiations should be concluded hastily at the cost of a sacrifice.

(Repeated to Major Grey)

Inclosure 2 in No. 54.

Major Grey to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Muscat, February 6, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of letter which I have addressed to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. G. GREY.



Inclosure 3 in No. 54.

Major Grey to Major Cox

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Muscat, February 5, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to refer to the telegram from the Government of India, in the Foreign Department, dated the 11th December last, in regard to the question of a loan to His Highness the Sultan of Muscat.

2. In reply to the above, I telegraphed that I had dropped the matter for the present, with its conditions. Before the 11th December, however, lengthy conversations had taken place between His Highness and myself in this connection, and he was more than half inclined to accept the terms proposed by Government (under their letter dated the 21st October last). Since the arrival of the telegram referred to he has not ceased to press for pecuniary aid, and I have been obliged to reply briefly that I could do nothing. He is not likely to consent without a large amount of persuasion from me, owing to the number and influence of the persons opposed to reform, who are bound by no instructions, and continue to ply him with the arguments on the other side.

3. The present position is a very difficult one. The enemies of reform above alluded to, among others, are unceasing in their efforts to cause misunderstanding, suspicion and, if possible, ill-feeling between His Highness and myself, and, with these objects in view, repeat to me, no doubt with exaggerations, all remarks made by Saiyid Faisal in connection with our changed attitude in regard to loans. He is reported to have said that, as we had ceased to make him advances, he must look elsewhere; and, on another occasion, that M. Goguyer is prepared to advance large sums at 6 per cent. interest.

4. Up to the present, however, he has confined himself to obtaining advances against future payments of customs duty. During the past fortnight the following sums have been thus drawn to meet expenses connected with the payment of officials, &c.:

From Goguyer  
 - Ali Musa  
 - K. K. K.  
 - Khoja M. K.  
 - K. K. K.

5. Should it be necessary to represent to His Highness that he had not adhered to his promise to borrow only from His Majesty's Government, I presume that minor transactions such as these above mentioned would be sufficient proof; and although I do not despair by any means of obtaining his consent to the conditions proposed, I venture to think that should I fail, His Majesty's Government may find their way to keep him strictly to the agreement referred to above, not only in connection with his own affairs, but in face of such protests and representations as may subsequently be made by the Sultan. As His Highness' financial condition is becoming more acute, we are probably approaching another crisis in Muscat history, in which, I trust, we will be able to hold our own.

6. A copy of this letter has been forwarded to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

I have, &c.  
 (Signed) W. G. GREY

\* It is said that the representative of Kowloon and Co. asked the French Consul for advice regarding this, and was told that he could safely advance the money.

Inclosure 4 in No. 54.

Major Grey to Government of India.

Muscat, February 12, 1906.

(Telegraphic.)

FINANCES of the Sultan of Muscat.

Please refer to your telegram of the 10th February, 1906, and to my letter referred to therein.

It would be a good thing, provided that His Majesty's Government are prepared to make advances to the Sultan of Muscat, that His Majesty's Government have heard of the debts reported in my letter, and have instructed me to send him money to repay them at once.

I might at the same time remind him of his undertaking, and say that it must be adhered to in future.

I do not think that the Sultan would dare to ask Goguyer for a substantial sum, or to borrow money from the French Government.

(Addressed to Major Cox.)

Inclosure 5 in No. 54.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

March 12, 1906.

(Telegraphic.) P.

MUSCAT

Please refer to your telegram of 7th December last.

It is proposed to make advances of 200,000 rupees, without political conditions, to be repaid from subsidy. Do you see any objection?

Letter from Major Grey, dated 10th February forwarded by mail of the 15th idem.

Inclosure 6 in No. 54.

Major Grey to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Muscat, February 12, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter dated 11th February, 1906, which I have addressed to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

I have, &c.  
 (Signed) W. G. GREY.

Inclosure 7 in No. 54.

Major Grey to Major Cox.

Muscat, February 12, 1906.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to make a few observations in connection with the position and intentions of the French in Muscat.

2. Since M. Larouze's return from Europe in October last, I have observed a decided change in him, particularly as regards his attitude towards me. It will be remembered that M. Goguyer described him some years ago as "more English than the English." The suggestion that he was "more English than the English" was made by M. Goguyer in a letter to me dated 10th February, 1904, in which he stated that M. Larouze was "more English than the English." I have since observed that M. Larouze is "more English than the English." This change in M. Larouze is interesting on account of the light which it throws upon the views of his Government in regard to Oman. So far from showing any desire to relinquish their position here on account of their failure in The Hague Arbitration case, as we thought might be possible, they are evidently desirous of improving it, no

doubt with the intention of keeping us as strictly as possible to the mutual Declaration of 1892 in connection with the Sultan's

M. Larance, in conversation with me (in connection with the question of salaries) that it was necessary that the

generosity of the Sultan, suggested that the best thing would be for a joint loan to be made to His Highness by the British and French Governments on the security of the customs. To this I naturally made no reply, as such an arrangement would be entirely satisfactory to us, even on condition that the Customs officials should be British and I did not care to inform M. Larance that the Sultan was bound to borrow only His Majesty's Government.

1. A copy of this letter is being forwarded to the Government of India in the Foreign Department

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. G. GREY

10178

*India Office to Foreign Office. (Received March 23.)*

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 15th and 22nd February, relative to Abdali-Haushahi relations and the attack on the station post at Nobat Dakim

*India Office, March 22, 1906.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

*Government of Bombay to Government of India*

*Bombay Castle, February 9, 1906.*

I AM directed to advert to the correspondence ending with Sir Steyning Edgerley's letter, dated the 26th November, 1905, and to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter from the Political Resident, Aden, dated the 10th January, 1906, and of its inclosures, and of my reply thereto of this date, regarding the relations subsisting between the Abdali and the Haushahi Chiefs

Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

*Major-General Mason to Government of Bombay*

*Aden Residency, January 27, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to refer to correspondence ending with your letter, dated the 25th November, 1905, concerning the relations subsisting between the Abdali and Haushahi Chiefs, and to state that the orders of Government in the matter were communicated to the Abdali Sultan on the 7th December last, and on the same date to Major Jacob, for necessary action and report. I inclose, herewith, a copy of the letter addressed to the Abdali Sultan in the matter.

2. In reporting by last mail in my letter, dated the 21st instant, the recent attack made by certain Subahis upon the post of Nobat Dakim, I incidentally forwarded a copy of Major Jacob's report, dated the 18th instant, concerning the relations between these two Chiefs, as probably having a bearing upon the incident under reference.

3. The report was received too late to be further remarked upon by last mail, but I have since received further letters on the same subject, which I have received from the Abdali Sultan and Sultan Ali Bin Mani, the Haushahi.

4. From further reports which have been received concerning the recent incident at Nobat Dakim, it appears that as already remarked in my letter, dated the 21st instant, that incident was

connected with the question of the relationship of the Abdali and Haushahi Chiefs, and the outcome of the events described in Major Jacob's report of the 18th instant.

5. From the letters received from the Abdali and Haushahi Sultans and from Major Jacob's report of the 18th instant, it appears that the present position is that the Abdali Sultan has transferred a portion of the territory ceded to him under the Agreement of 1895 to Sultan Ali Bin Mani to hold as his deputy or representative on certain conditions of good conduct and general amenability and for so long a time as the Abdali Sultan chooses to allow the same.

6. In paragraph 30 of this office letter, dated the 15th October last, the permanent transfer of the Al Amur District to the Haushahi was recommended. And it now appears that this modification of the arrangement of 1895 has been, for the time being, recognized as desirable by the Abdali Sultan himself.

7. The transfer has accordingly been effected, and it is to be observed that this has been done in the face of the instructions conveyed in the 3rd paragraph of your letter, dated the 15th February, 1905, the purport of which was at the time duly conveyed to both the Chiefs concerned. Major Jacob observes at the conclusion of his report of the 18th instant that an amicable settlement which does not necessitate Government intervention will, he believes, commend itself to Government. But it is to be observed that even a temporary exchange of territory constitutes a violation of the strict terms of the Haushahi Treaty of 1895, and that the temporary nature of the present Agreement may entail at some subsequent date a recurrence of the trouble now being experienced owing to the rendition of Nobat Dakim.

8. The rendition of this letter post was recommended in this office letter, dated the 15th October last, in view of the railway project then under consideration, but it is clear that its transfer has led to friction, and as the Abdali's claims thereto had been constantly denied acceptance by this Residency during the past few years it is a question whether it might not have been more politic to maintain the *status quo*, and to have continued the Abdali territorial advantages under the old Agreement of 1895 to the already considerable gains at Al Anad and the fields of Shanna.

9. The recognition of the Agreement of 1895, however, of course renders the cessation of Nobat Dakim necessary, and the immediate question is whether the present subsequent modification of that Agreement shall now also be recognized and whether it should receive absolute recognition as a temporary arrangement only, or shall be declared permanent, subject to the consent of Government to any alteration.

10. As was remarked in paragraph 19 of this office letter, dated the 15th October, 1905, the conclusion of the Agreement of 1895 could be held to demonstrate the expediency of effecting some modification of the 1895 Agreement, and the actual Agreement now reported may be held to have a similar effect. In view of this partial modification of the Agreement of 1895, it may also be held to be open to Government to effect any further modification which may be considered desirable.

11. The views of this Residency on the general question of the Abdali-Haushahi relations are already known to Government, and I need not here repeat them. There appears to be no doubt that neither Sultan Ali Bin Mani nor his tribesmen are really anxious to continue subordinate to the Abdali. Major Jacob remarks in his letter of the 18th instant that he does not know what concessions the Abdali may have promised to Ali Mani in return for his ready acceptance of the 1895 Agreement to which I have previously referred as a somewhat sudden volte face. And it is of course equally clear from the attached copy of the report, dated the 25th instant, received from Major Jacob, it appears that the Abdali Sultan can be at times liberal enough to gain his own ends.

12. It may be considered convenient for the present to continue a general acceptance of the terms of the Agreement of 1895 and to accord recognition of the subsequent territorial modification thereof. And it may be hoped that recent friction will, in due course, subside and that recalcitrant tribesmen will, in due course, be reduced to order by the Chiefs concerned without the necessity of our intervention. At the same time, I would venture to again recommend that the rendition of the Al Amur district to the Haushahi should be made permanent subject to the consent of Government to any alteration, and that the Abdali Sultan's claims to suzerainty over Haushahi territory should be restricted.



Inclosure 3 in No. 15.

Major-General Mason to Sultan Sir Ahmed Fadhil

(After compliments.)

Aden Residency, December 7, 1905.

WE write, O friend, to inform you that we have now heard from the Government of Bombay that, as settled at the interview which his Excellency the Governor of Bombay accorded you last April, the decision of yourself and of Sultan Ali bin Mani', the Haushahi, to abide by the Agreement of 1585 has been noted by them and will be reported to the Government of India. So long as you and Sultan Ali bin Mani', yourselves remain satisfied with the relationship then established, there appears to be no necessity for it to be modified.

We are informing Sultan Ali bin Mani' of this through our Political Officer at Djibouti and we are asking Major Jacob to inform you of a convenient day on which you can take over charge of the post of Nobat Dakim from Sultan Ali bin Mani'. Thereafter, O friend, the sole responsibility for the safety of all caravans at Nobat Dakim, and on the roads between that place and Lahaj will of course rest in your hands whether they are proceeding down towards Aden or up from Aden. Please make your arrangements to take over Nobat Dakim in accordance with the wishes which Major Jacob will communicate to you direct.

May you be preserved

Inclosure 4 in No. 35

Sultan Sir Ahmed Roshdi to Major-General: Mysore

(after compliments)

92 *Al K'ida*, 1323 (January 17, 1944)

It is inform your honour that your lad Sultan Ali bin Mansur, the Hausah, came to us and made due recognition of our ownership to the Amri country and Nobat Dakim in accordance with the Agreement of 1905. Eventually he requested us as a favour to nominate him as our representative in the Amri country. Being youth and of young age, as an act of compassion we have appointed him on our behalf, on condition that the responsibility rest with him, that whenever we desire to recover it we can remove him, and he agreed to do the same without contention. On his consenting to the above, we have entered our sympathy for his condition, as stated in his letter to your address.

May you be preserved

Inclosure 6 in No. 35

*Sultan Ali Mami\* to Major-General Mason*

(After compliments)

-14/ Kida, 1323 (January 18, 1906)

214. 4. 1144, 1323 (January 10, 1880)

WE inform your honour that, in accordance with your advice, we have gone to our father Sultan Ahmed Fadhl and surrendered to him the Amri country, and he duly received it from us. Subsequently he has appointed us as his representative in the Amri country, and delivered it to us in trust as long as we remain submissive to him and look after it, and it shall be under our supervision and the responsibility rests with us. In the event of any violation on our part, disregard in rendering protection, and we do not maintain the filial relation towards him, or that if he, under any circumstances, desires to recover it, we are bound to restore the Amri country without contention. We prefer to inform you of what took place between us and our father Sultan Ahmed Fadhl. We undertake this on behalf of ourselves and the Sultans of the Haushabis, and on behalf of Sultan Ahmed Fadhl, and the Abdali Sultans. The terms of the Agreement concluded in 1805 between our late uncle Sultan Moham bin Ali and our late father, the late Sultan Fadhl bin Ali, shall remain in force between the first and last (literal) \* Sultans of the Haushabis and the first and last Sultans of the Abdalis. We like to inform you of this

May you be preserved

\* Preceding and succeeding

Inclosure 6 in No. 55.

Major Jacob to First Assistant Resident, Aden

Nobat Dakim, January 25, 1946.

IN continuation of my urgent demi-official to the address of the Resident of date, 11 p.m., 30th January. I have now to report as follows:—

On 22nd January, I have now to report as follows:—  
I reached Aoudia Basm on the 23rd. The fire, as reported by the Officer Commanding here, took place on the evening of Thursday the 18th idem, at about 7-30. On the night of the 23rd (after my arrival) and at much the same as on the first occasion, a shot was heard, and it seemed to come over the camp. The Abdali post on the hill opposite at once responded and sent out a detachment in the direction of the flash. Some desultory firing went on for half an hour or so behind the hills to the north-west of our camp, and on their return I learnt that three men had been seen retreating towards Al Tunban (Haushab). It was

The Hanabahi Sultan came in yesterday in response to my call. He has returned to-day to his capital. I questioned him carefully while avoiding the imputation that I was inquisitive; partly for the affair but querring whether some of his people were not settled the Subahi to the same, he swore by God that his recent pact with the Abdali Sultan would prove a bond of union and that he and Ahmed Shah were incomparably one; their interests were in common. He admitted the possibility of the Ahl Yabru (his kinsfolk, with whom he is not on the best of terms) and one Sayid Miranar of the Abdali being in the Subahi, but he said that he was with certainty. He repeated what I had before heard, namely, that the Subahi section of the Subahis, dissatisfied with the smallness of the Abdali Sultan's present for the coming Id, had determined to take the Subahis and they knew he had recently taken over from the

Hausman; and being conversant with the place, he had recently taken over from him the approach the places where Abdali men were sitting, and that if shots were fired at the camp it was solely to enrage the Government, and the better to attract our attention to their (Abdali) grievances, that they wished to blacken the Abdali face and lower his respect. Ali Mani went on to say that these Juberi had sometime ago killed seven-teen men of his own and he denied they were his children in any sense of the word, that the Juberi, Ghulebi, and Hamedj had recently handed him back the thread of friendship, to show thereby that their friendly relations with him were now at an end, and he had received their insult. If you are a man come and meet us (to fight) at Al Tunnan. Further that these Subahis were not residing in his limits, they lived on J. The next day I found that the war had been declared. On Saturday morning I left the fort of the suillade till on Saturday he received my letter, that after the 1st he and the Abdali were going to attack the Subahis, and would attack these recalcitrant Subahis. In short, he denied me assistance of any kind. I would myself lead a punitive expedition against these for a road in that district. I would myself lead a punitive expedition against these man, but I fear that the result would be disastrous and ruinous to the caravan, but I fear that the result would be disastrous and ruinous to the caravan; also that immediately after the Dakim and the consequent insecurity of caravans; also that immediately after the Dakim affair these very marauders looted a camel near Al Tunnan which was carrying khat; at these Subahis have not returned. I have heard that Sheikh bin Mahmud bin Kaleb (?), who is the biggest blackguard; the clan comprised some seventy men. "Let Government give me assistance in arms, and I will go and punish these people. I shall expect Abdali's assistance." "The Subahis are dogs." "I will post some men near Al Tunnan."

men near Al Tunnan.

When your letter to Ali Mani' came here on Saturday it was forwarded by a ~~man~~ who on arriving at Jai Maqam (~~Haushabi~~) ~~was~~ sent to the Akil's one Haidar Ali (headman of the Haushabi post at Nobat Dakim before its recent transfer). He was sent ~~with~~ with the Juberi, and no another man was sent with the letter to Ali Mani'. Abdul Majid asks why the Akil was with the Juberi, and how Ali Mani' could have Haushabi sympathy with the Juberi's was consistent with this Akil's presence in their midst. He said he could not possibly attack to Ali Mani', but he was not able absolutely to divest himself of all suspicion.





3. The arrangement itself does not, so far as his Excellency the Governor in Council can judge, amount to an actual rendition of the Amri territory by the Abdali to the Haushabi Sultan, but rather to be an appointment by the former of the latter to be Ruler by delegation of that territory. But whatever be the precise character of the arrangement, there is, I am to observe, no need to take formal cognizance of it. It has been already stated in Sir Steyning Edgerley's letter dated the 25th November, 1903, so long as the Chiefs themselves remain satisfied with the relationship established between them, which is not clearly contrary to the Agreement of 1895, there is no need for Government to intervene.

Inclosure 8 in No. 55.

*Government of Bombay to Government of India.*

(Confidential.)

*Bombay, February 9, 1906.*

IN continuation of my telegram dated the 23rd January, 1906, I am directed to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a correspondence ending with the Political Resident's letter dated the 28th January, 1906, on the subject of the attack on the British post at Nobat Dakim by the Juberi clan of the Subahi tribe. A copy of my reply of this date to the Political Resident is also inclosed.

Inclosure 9 in No. 55.

*Major-General Mason to Government of Bombay.*

*Aden, January 21, 1906.*

IN confirmation of my telegram dated the 19th instant, I have the honour to report that the military post at Nobat Dakim was fired at on the night of the 18th instant, and to attach herewith copy of the report furnished by the Officer Commanding the detachment at that post.

2. The casualties at the post were slight, and it is not yet known what casualties took place amongst the attackers. According to local rumour, five or six men were killed.

3. Immediately upon receipt of the report the Abdali Sultan was addressed with a view to ascertaining who the assailants were. And I attach copy of a letter received from him which crossed the above. From this it would appear that the attacking force probably were of Juberi sub-tribe of Subahis. Local rumour ascribes the incident to the Basas, but more definite news will doubtless shortly be forthcoming.

4. In connection with this incident I attach a copy of a letter received yesterday from the Political Officer, Dthala, on the subject of the Abdali Haushabi relations. It would not appear impossible that the present incident is in some way connected with that question. But on this point I will not at present do more than remark that Major Jacob's latest report tends to confirm my opinion that the settlement of the question could best have been effected on the lines recommended in this office letter dated the 16th October, 1905.

Inclosure 10 in No. 55.

*Officer Commanding, Nobat Dakim, to Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General,  
Aden Brigade*

*Aden, January 19, 1906.*

THIS post was fired on at about 7.30 yesterday evening, the 18th instant, by a party estimated at about twenty men. The firing, which began at close range, lasted about half an hour.

2. Our expenditure of ammunition was 248 rounds.

3. Casualties—

Government servants, nil; camel contractor's agent, slight; one camelman, severe; four well-diggers, slight.

4. The attack was reported to Government by the Political Officer at Dthala by heliograph.

(Indorsed by the Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, Aden Brigade.)

*Aden, January 20, 1906.*

Forwarded for information to the First Assistant Resident.

The General Officer Commanding has issued orders to strengthen—

Bir Salim, from eight to sixteen men; Bir Sayed Ali, from eight to twelve men; and Sheikh Othman, to one native officer and twenty-five men.

3. This information will, I understand, be conveyed by you to the Sultan of Lahej.

Inclosure 11 in No. 55.

*Sultan Sir Ahmed Fadhl to Major-General Mason.*

(After compliments.)

*23 Al K'ida, 1323 (January 18, 1906)*

WE have received a letter from Ahmed Heidara-bin-Saad, one of our soldiers at Nobat Dakim, stating that the Subahis have attacked and fired on the camp. Moham Al-Homari and four labourers who were working in the well as well as the agent of Balaxa, were wounded. It is reported that they were the Jabbers, but we shall inquire and find out the actual perpetrators.

Please, O friend, pay attention to these misdeeds of the Subahis and their incessant transgressions always. We hope that you will assist us completely for the punishment of the Subahis generally, even those who pretend to be peaceful. Even these persons are indirectly concerned in the disturbances.

It seems to us from all these misdeeds which had been perpetrated, that your Government will consider them sufficient grounds for punishing them.

Inclosure 12 in No. 55.

*Memorandum.*

I GIVE in chronological order the substance of interviews I have recently had with the Abdali and Haushabi Sultans. I do so in order that Government may follow the reasonings of the Arab mind. Otherwise, I had merely recorded the conclusion of the whole matter and the Haushabi's attitude of concurrence in the Government letter of the 26th November, 1905.

I saw Sultan Ali Mani' at Nobat Dakim on the 17th December last. I found him averse to the surrender of Nobat Dakim. It would be his lowering, he said, in the eyes of his tribesmen. He had better surrender his all and retire to private life in his capital, Musemir. He had a vast country to control and many trade routes to safeguard, but he would leave all to his father, the Abdali, and so forth.

I reminded him of the assent spontaneously given to the upholding of the 1895 Agreement, though urged by me to reflect before decision, for the Abdali had professed a willingness to offer him (the Haushabi) certain concessions. He had, I said, declined them all, declaring his preference to receive by and by whatever the Abdali, his father, might graciously offer him.

I advised Ali Mani' loyally to abide by that Agreement and to return a deaf ear to the whisperings of ill-counsellors. It was the intention of Government that he should continue a sovereign having direct treaty relations with itself; that his tract was, as he said, sufficiently large for him to display his qualities as Ruler, and, that Government expected great things from his regime; that as his territories marched in places with Turkish boundaries, his importance in the future would be immensely enhanced.

He replied the Government could do as seemed it best, and if the 1895 Agreement included (sic) the surrender to the Abdali of Nobat Dakim, he admitted this was Abdali and no longer Haushabi.

I must add here, for the information of Government, that the Abdali Sultan has proposed to me his readiness to hand back the Amri country to Ali Mani', and in that event he might ask Government to order the necessary modification of its recent adherence to the Agreement mutually admitted by the two Sultans last July.

I casually sounded Ali Mani' on the point, but he declined to accept this tract. Had not Government just acquiesced in its transference to the Abdali? I reminded him that the Government acquiescence followed the mutual assent of both parties. It was Government's recognition of the dual desire to let the 1895 Agreement stand. Government desired peace and progress in the two territories, both Rulers of which were friendly to the British Government.

Ali Mani' then asseverated his cordial acquiescence in Government's last decision. He added that Sir Ahmed should garrison not alone Nobat Dakim, but should find posts in the Amri country also, and he trusted that when the Abdali experienced the difficulty of protecting trade in that quarter he would not turn round and accuse Ali Mani' of inciting trouble.

I told Ali Mani' I felt sure his well-known friendship with the British Government would preclude his ever lending himself to so mean an action, and if his conscience were clear on this point, he need not anticipate any such tactics on the Abdali's part. After this, Ali Mani' hoped I would acquaint his kinsmen of Al Raba of his committal to the revised order of things, so that his own position might become more tenable. I offered to do so, and to meet these Abi Yahya at any convenient spot, but added that we dealt with the Sultan himself, and expected a strong Ruler to manage his own internal affairs; otherwise, how was he going to consolidate his position? Ali Mani' reminded me he had just returned from the Turkish border, where he had been engaged on the work of reconciling his tribesmen estranged from his house during his uncle's lifetime.

On the 24th December I encountered the Abdali at Nobat Dakim. He had taken over the Nobat Dakim post with the ten men, to be supplemented to fifteen. Here he proposed to put Abdalis and a mixed lot of Subahis, and had written to the various Subahs to send them. I covered this and sent for Ali Mani' to meet him at Nobat Dakim, as I was then due here. Saiyid Fadhl, an influential man in the Haushabi country, alone came in while I was there. I advised Sir Ahmed not to press for Ali Mani's incoming, but to go easy in the matter of the Amri country. I was, however, in a hurry to leave, and to have the matters in my hands to be settled by diplomacy. To this he gladly assented, but said he was prepared to have recourse to arms if necessary. This was, of course, mere bravado. The Abdali believes this Saiyid is the greatest "trouble fete" in the Haushabi country, and it is possible he squared the man before sending him back to his master.

On the 26th I went to Musmir and met Ali Mani', the Saiyid, and Saleh Ba Hashim, the Sultan's father-in-law, who is the chief adviser to the Ruler.

On the 27th I interviewed Ali Mani' and his father-in-law. The latter found objections to the surrender of a single inch of former Haushabi territory, and the Sultan was much impressed by his reasonings. He at first enlarged upon the fact that it was his uncle, Mohsin-bin-Ali, who had sequestered Haushabi territory, and asked why he would suffer because of another's misdeeds. "Is Nobat Dakim then really to be taken from me? If the Amri country goes also, my tribesmen will rebel. Let the Abdali take the whole country. One day he will fix avaricious eyes on Musmir. Was it Bombay that agreed to his transaction?" Again, *ad nauseam*, I reminded him how fully aware he was of the contents of the 1895 Agreement when before me, last July, he affixed his assent to what had transpired in his uncle's time, and I added that if he now refused his assent thereto his conduct would be unintelligible to Government. He was a man of intellect, and should act for himself. I advised him to adhere to the *status quo*. Talking of the Amri country, he said he would never accept it back from the Abdali. I asked him how he reconciled this attitude of his with the previous assertion that his kinsmen would actively resent the severance of the Amri tract? Again I asked him to let me meet the Abi Yahya for a discussion. He replied he was supreme, and need not consult any one.

From these remarks I gather—

(1.) That Ali Mani' is largely influenced by his father-in-law, and is afraid to take any responsibility on his shoulders;

(2.) That even if he gives his assent to the rendition in its entirety (as already he has done) of the tracts entered in the said Agreement, he may (to put it charitably), not be vexed if Subahis and others make incursions into the Amri country, to spite the Abdali.

The Amri people are semi-independent of the Haushabi Sultan, and their adhesion to him is more theoretical than real. I know that in 1888 the then Haushabi Sultan led an expedition into that country, and their inter-relations have never been absolutely satisfactory, though Ali Mani' might gradually undo the mischief

wrought by his predecessors. It seems to me immaterial whether the Abdali or the Haushabi assume control over them.

On the 30th I had another interview with Ali Mani'.

He admitted I had clearly explained to him last July the meaning of the 1895 document, and that he had accepted the situation. He said he would make the Abdali would make him certain concessions, and restore, in short, both Nobat Dakim and the Amri country. He said he would now accept the Government's decision, but wanted the Abdali to be made responsible for any subsequent wrong deeds, and reiterated the hope that the Abdali's suspicions would not hereafter fall on the Haushabi people.

He was willing to summon his kinsmen, the Abi Yahya, and was ready to depute a man to meet, and hand over to, the Abdali representative, in the Amri country.

The Haushabi dreads more than all else the loss of Nobat Dakim. Once he was anxious to secure the rendition of Al Anad and the fields of Shamma, but is not apparently reconciled to the severance of these last. He suggests that Nobat Dakim be equally divided between himself and Sir Ahmed.

I interviewed the Haushabi for the last time on the 31st December, and asked him to state his views finally. Government would not view with favour such vacillation. He replied "I will give the Abdali willingly what he wants, both Nobat Dakim and the Amri tract, on condition that he police the places, and is responsible for travellers and caravans on route. He must be warned not to allow disturbances, and then attribute their origin to me. I will not swerve from what I have already agreed to maintain."

In my opinion, it is not loss of prestige that Ali Mani' fears if he parts with Nobat Dakim. The village is conveniently situated where roads converge, and excess dues on "kafilas" might easily be levied there. The temptation would be great.

The Abdali has already taken over Nobat Dakim, and the Haushabi post there has been withdrawn. The Abdali's plan to entertain mixed tribesmen promises to be successful. The railway's northern terminus will be here. So far the only Chiefs whose territory will be traversed by the rail will be the Abdali. Government will not, I believe, care to allow dual control at Nobat Dakim, nor welcome, where avoidable in so short a distance, business transactions with two Sultans.

Further, I opine that Government will not unconcernedly view the diminution at the place of the spoils of the late Abdali Sultan gained in warfare with a Ruler who was coquetting with the Turk, especially since the work of his recall to British influence. Government was willing to intrust the arms and money of its proved friend the then Abdali Sultan.

Ali Mani' is a younger and unproved man, with an infamous example before him. I would recommend he be treated in a conciliatory and yet firm manner, and in view to the perpetual peace of the country he should be compelled to abide by the July Convention, where he expressly and unreservedly waived his claims to the concessions the Abdali was prepared to make him. At the conclusion of the two interviews before me at Nobat Dakim I know not what concessions the Abdali may have promised to Ali Mani'. I am, however, inclined to believe that the Abdali's acceptance of the 1895 Agreement, in part at least, was a concession to the Haushabi, and that the Abdali's confirmation was possible, to permit the Haushabi to collect his dues in his own countries and to receive his stipend directly from the Residency. He further was prepared at that time to return to Ali Mani' both Nobat Dakim and the Amri country on condition that no mention was ever again made of Al Anad and the fields of Shamma.

These concessions proved the sincerity of Sir Ahmed, as also his keen desire for peace and goodwill, and his attitude is deserving of the highest encomium.

I believe in his latest refusal to take back, even with Government's imprimatur attached, the Amri country, Ali Mani' is making an appeal *ad misericordiam*, in view to a rendition in their entirety of the lands lost by his predecessor, and he buoy himself with the hope that Government will step in and cancel its recent resolution.

I gave Ali Mani' clearly to understand that if his tribesmen were likely to become contumacious at the transfer of lands to the Abdali, and yet now, without their consultation, as suggested by me, he gave his final consent to the Government Resolution sanctioning the continuity of the 1895 Agreement, Government aid could not be expected if by any chance internal dissensions thereafter arose.

Personally, I discredit any tribal rising, but would urge upon Government the desirability of letting the transfer proceed, though slowly.

Under the orders of the Residency, I have advised the Abdali to be temporarily content with the possession of Nobat Dakim and to remain quiet, and see how the



Nobat Dakim affair is taken by the Hausshabi generally. After a couple of weeks we can see how affairs develop, and then I believe the Amri country will quietly pass over to Abdali hands and control.

If, however, contrary to expectation, the transfer of Nobat Dakim leads to bad feeling and action, I would suggest that Government allow the rendition of the Amri country to Ali Mani' the Hausshabi as proposed by Sir Ahmed, and, categorically, give finality to an affair which has given rise to much bad blood, and threatens to continue *ad infinitum*.

I do not propose to meet Ali Mani' kinsman at this stage. It appears advisable to watch the result of the restoration of Nobat Dakim, the Amri affair remaining dormant till a more convenient occasion.

Since writing the above, I hear from private sources that Ali Mani' has gone to Lahej, and is arranging matters with the Abdali Sultan. We shall do well to watch how the affair proceeds. An amicable Agreement that does not necessitate Government intervention will, I believe, commend itself to Government.

(Signed) H. P. JACOB, Major,  
Political Officer, Dthala.

(Indorsed by the Political Officer, Dthala.)

Dthala, January 18, 1906.

Forwarded, with compliments, to the First Assistant Resident, Aden, for the information of the Resident.

Inclosure 13 in No. 55.

Supplementary Report.

I HAVE to-day received from Sultan Ali Mani' the Hausshabi the accompanying letter in original, with English translation attached. It speaks for itself. Sultan Ahmed Fadthl has taken over the Amri country, and handed it over (it will be noted) conditionally and on trust to the Hausshabi Sultan. He evidently believed that its retention in Abdali hands spelt intrigue and trouble.

The arrangement differs slightly in form from that of my suggestion, which was that if any bad feeling were generated by the transfer to Abdali of this tract, it is advisable that Government should order its permanent rendition to, and retention by, the Hausshabi Sultan. The result is the same, except that, anticipating trouble, Sir Ahmed preferred himself to hand back the country to the other without experiment.

It would be well, as suggested in my Report, to let matters so remain, and I would urge, if no *contretemps* occurs nor any other *colite-face* be evidenced on Ali Mani's part, that Government be pleased, say, after four months' probation, to recognize this last avowal on Ali Mani's part, and modify its acquiescence in the Agreement of 1895 in so far as the ownership of the Amri country is concerned, and to let the rest stand good. In the event of future trouble or Hausshabi recalcitrancy, I would urge a categorical order by Government in the terms of this last development.

(Signed) H. P. JACOB, Major,  
Political Officer, Dthala.

Inclosure 14 in No. 55.

Sultan Ali Mani' to Major Jacob.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

At Kfda, 1323 A.H.

I HAVE gone to my father Sultan Ahmed Fadthl in accordance with your advice to me and handed over to him the Amri country. After accepting the same he handed it back again to me, making me his representative in that tract. I hold it on trust, and it is to remain under my supervision; responsibility there rests with me so long as I am submissive to him and take care of the place. In case I change my attitude, and neglect to give protection and depart from my filial relation with him, or, again, should

he, for any cause whatever, desire its restoration to him, I shall be obliged to restore the Amri without demand.

I have great pleasure in acquainting you, my friend, with what has taken place between me and my father, Sultan Ahmed Fadthl. This transaction of mine is on my behalf and that of all the Sultans of the Hausshabi, and similarly on behalf of Sultan Ahmed Fadthl himself and also the Sultans of the Abdali. The Agreement was entered into between the late Sultan, my uncle, Mohsin-bin-Ali, and my father, the late Sultan Fadthl-bin-Ali, has its stipulations still in force, and affects us Sultans of the Hausshabi, former and successive, as also the Abdali Sultans, former and successive.

Accept this, our intimation, and may you be preserved.

Inclosure 15 in No. 55.

Major-General Mason to Government of Bombay.

(Telegraphic.)

Aden, January 27, 1906.

SUBSEQUENT reports confirm the facts reported in my telegram of the 23rd January that the assailants on the British post at Nobat Dakim were the Juberi tribe. The attack does not appear to betray any hostility towards the British Government, and was probably aimed at the Abdali, with whose treatment of them the Juberi are generally dissatisfied. I propose to press the Abdali and Hausshabi Chiefs to punish the tribe and to maintain order. So far, the affair is merely due to inter-tribal dispute. The Abdali Sultan claims our assistance under the Treaty "35," dated the 18th June, 1859, but there is not at present the least necessity for rendering assistance. On the night of the 23rd instant some slight desultory firing took place between the Abdali and Hausshabi.

Inclosure 16 in No. 55.

Major-General Mason to Sultan Sir Ahmed Fadthl.

(After compliments.)

Aden, January 27, 1906.

WE have, O friend, received your letter dated the 25th Kfda, 1323 (30th January, 1906), and its accompaniments, concerning recent incident at Nobat Dakim. And we have also received your other letter of the same date concerning the punishment of the offending Subaihis.

We have also, of course, received various reports from our Political Officer, Major Jacob, and from the Officer Commanding our post at Nobat Dakim.

In regard to your first letter and its accompaniment, we have, O friend, no reason to credit the truth in the implication that any of your soldiers were wounded by the fire from our troops on the evening of the 18th instant. We are, however, of course, making further inquiries into the matter.

As to the correction of the offenders, that is, of course, a matter which you yourself and Sultan Ali Mani' will together in due course arrange for. The affair does not seem to have been one of any particularly great importance, and it will doubtless prove possible for you to maintain order on the roads and to administer the necessary correction to disturbers of the peace thereon without any difficulty.

Your recent acquisition of Nobat Dakim, of course, imposes various obligations upon you which we are sure that you would be the last to shrink from or evade. We have no doubt that with your usual tact and discretion you will soon pacify the comparatively ignorant tribesmen of the Juberi and arrange that there shall be no more disturbance on the roads.

We are surprised at your reference to the old Treaty of 1859, which, of course, is not applicable to petty intertribal matters of the nature under reference.



(Indorsed by the Political Resident, Aden.)

Aden, January 28, 1906.

Copy forwarded, with compliments, to the Secretary to Government in the Political Department, in continuation of this office letter dated the 28th January, 1906.

Inclosure 17 in No. 55.

Major-General Mason to Government of Bombay.

(Confidential.)

Aden, January 28, 1906.

IN continuation of my letter dated the 31st instant, and subsequent telegram, I have the honour to forward herewith, for the further information of Government, copy of a Report, dated the 25th January, 1906, received from Major Jacob, and also of a Report of the same date received from Lieutenant Rae, of the 81st Pioneers, who was in command of the post at Nobat Dakim when the attack under reference was delivered. I also attach copy of an earlier Report, dated the 22nd instant, also submitted by Lieutenant Rae.

3. From the above, it will appear that, as already reported, the assailants were certain of the Juberi clan of Subaihis, and that the object of the attack was mainly to give expression to their general dissatisfaction with the treatment accorded to them by the Abdali Sultan, and with his recent acquisition of the post of Nobat Dakim.

3. Government will observe that Major Jacob is of opinion that, if not Sultan Ali-bin-Mani', at least some Haushabi or Haushabis were indirectly responsible for the Juberi aggressiveness, and it seems, on the whole, decidedly probable that the incident was at least connected with Haushabi-Abdali affairs.

4. I am of opinion that the incident may be regarded as at present mainly inter-tribal, and I propose to press both the Abdali and Haushabi Chiefs to take necessary measures to maintain order, and to administer the necessary correction to the tribe concerned in due course. I trust that they may be able to effect this without the necessity of any material support from us.

5. I inclose, however, for the further information of Government, copies of the marginally-noted letters\* received in the course of the week from the Abdali Sultan.

In regard to the first of these, I have no reason to credit the rumour that any of the wounded were, as insinuated, injured by our troops. The inclosure from Ahmed Ba Haidara is interesting as naming the probable ringleaders in the attack; but the last letter is the only one of any real importance.

6. In this the Abdali Sultan specifically asks for assistance in virtue of the old Treaty, dated the 18th June, 1859, which is No. 35 in those contained in Aitchison's collection. I do not propose to recognize the necessity of rendering any assistance, and pending further developments I shall confine myself to pressing both the Abdali and Haushabi Chiefs to themselves take all necessary measures to preserve order on the route.

7. At the same time the route is, of course, an important one; and in the event of any really serious or protracted interruption, it may prove necessary to ourselves intervene to restore order. I trust that this contingency will not arise.

8. I shall be myself probably proceeding to Dhalala on inspection next week, and I shall then, of course, take the opportunity to impress upon the Chiefs their responsibilities and the importance of preserving order on the trade route.

Inclosure 18 in No. 55.

Major Jacob to First Assistant Resident, Aden, January 25, 1906.

[See Inclosure 6 in No. 55.]

\* Dated January 29, 1906.

Inclosure 19 in No. 55.

Lieutenant Rae to First Assistant Resident, Aden.

Nobat Dakim, January 25, 1906.

REPORT on the firing at Nobat Dakim on the 18th January, 1906:

On the 18th instant, at about 7:30 P.M., the Kerby Contractor's inclosure, and the well-diggers' inclosure near the post of Nobat Dakim were fired into and, simultaneously, shots were fired over the camp. One camelman, who was feeding his camel near the Kerby inclosure, was severely wounded by a bullet, and at the well-diggers' inclosure the camel contractor's agent and four well-diggers were wounded by slugs. One of the well-diggers has since died. The meat contractor's inclosure was fired over, but apparently not into. The men in the Kerby and well-diggers' inclosure returned the fire of their assailants.

2. When the firing commenced I ordered the men to man the alarm posts, and after about five minutes, to commence fire, as there was apparently no doubt that fire was being deliberately directed on the camp. Firing continued for about half-an-hour without, as far as is known, any casualties on either side.

3. Our expenditure of ammunition was 268 rounds.

4. A rough sketch is attached to explain the situation.

5. Our assailants are said to have been Juberi Subaihis. I estimated their number at about twenty.

Inclosure 20 in No. 55.

Lieutenant Rae to Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, Aden Brigade.

Nobat Dakim, January 23, 1906.

THE people who attacked this post on the 18th instant are reported to be a party of twenty Juberi Subaihis. My informants are, first, my interpreter Murzuk; second, the brother of His Highness the Sultan of Lahej. Their reason for doing so was to extort a subsidy from the Sultan of Lahej. I have discovered no evidence tending to show that this is not the case.

2. I note that reports are to be sent daily till further orders.

3. Major Jacob has written to say he will arrive at Nobat to-morrow morning. I regret I cannot give you the exact wording of the communications between Major Jacob and myself, as they were in the form of private messages of which I have no record. Their substance was as follows:—

(1.) Helio to Major Jacob, stating that camp has been fired on, and giving casualties.

(2.) Helio followed by letter from Major Jacob, asking if there was any evidence against the Haushabi in the matter.

(3.) Helio my answer, stating that there was no evidence against the Haushabis, and that I was informed that the Juberi Subaihis were the assailants.

4. Major Jacob's suspicion against the Haushabis was due to the fact that I reported to him some time ago information received that the Sultan of Haushabi was considerably annoyed at the transfer of the post opposite this camp to the Abdalis, and intended to fire either on this camp or the Abdali post, or both.

5. One of the well-diggers, who was reported slightly wounded, has since died. I may state here that the wounded were attended to by Captain Lloyd, I.M.S., who was here on the night of the attack.

6. The brother of the Sultan of Lahej informs me that he intends to increase the strength of the Abdali post here from twenty to sixty men, and to picket the hill close to and north of the old camp nightly with twenty men each. I neither approved nor demurred pending Major Jacob's arrival.

7. My interpreter informed me last night that he had to read to the Sultan's brother a letter from the Sultan saying that Major Jacob is very angry, and that he must on no account leave till Major Jacob's arrival. He (the interpreter) also says that the Sultan's brother said he would attack the Juberi with 200 men by night.

[1629]

2 A



Inclosure 21 in No. 55.

*Sultan Sir Ahmed Fudhli to Major-General Mason*

(After compliments.)

25 Al K'ida, 1323 (January 20, 1906).

WE have received your letter, dated the 20th January, 1906, and, in reply, we inform your Honour that we had informed you in our previous letter that the offenders were said to be the Juberi, and for further inquiry we had specially dispatched our brother Abdul Majid with many soldiers. As soon as we know the facts we shall let you know. As we have obtained possession of Nobat recently, we have arranged to build a wall on the northern direction in order to protect your camp there. God willing, this work will be completed in a short time. The Subaihis are like thieves, they come suddenly, and it is impossible for us to reach them, but fight will inevitably take place between them and us. As regards this people (Juberi), they are living in the Haushabi territory. We shall write a letter to the Sultan Ali Mani' and see what reply he will give us. As to the wounded men, they were our labourers, whom we sent to excavate the well, and Mohsin-al-Homari, one of our soldiers at Al Anad, who possesses a camel at Nobat Dakim. We have received a letter from his (Mohsin-al-Homari) brother, named Ali-bin-Saleh, the Homari, and also a letter from our soldier, Ahmed Ba Haidara. We send the two letters for your perusal. We hope, O friend, that you will instruct your soldiers at Nobat Dakim not to fire in the direction of our soldiers, as they are helpers of your soldiers and are friendly. Our soldiers are considered to be your men. As an act of favour, please inform your soldiers not to direct their guns towards our soldiers in the event of any occurrence taking place. We have now sent twenty men, an additional force to the soldiers already stationed at Nobat Dakim. They are nearly fifty men now. We also inform you that one of the wounded well-diggers has expired.

P.S.—After closing up this letter, we have received a letter from Ali Mani', which we herewith inclose for your perusal.

Inclosure 22 in No. 55.

*Ali-bin-Saleh Al Homari to Sultan Sir Ahmed Fudhli.*

[Undated.]

WE inform you, O father, that the Subaihis have attacked Nobat Dakim and fired on the post where the camelmen are stationed. Mohsin-al-Homari was wounded. Afterwards, O father, the whole camp was agitated. We and our men then hastened to Nobat Dakim and spoke soothingly to the people. O father, the Europeans have fired on the stations and wounded some of the labourers of the well as well as Ahmed Koradi, the Mahadom of the camelmen. O father, we require a physician, even if on payment. O father, we report this for your information. As to the people who fired on the camp, we have not as yet known them. We will ascertain and let you know. O father, we want a man who gives treatment for our brother, even on payment. We have sent the Na'aima to bring us the correct news of the men who fired on the camp.

Inclosure 23 in No. 55.

*Sultan Ali Mani' to Sultan Sir Ahmed Fudhli.*

(After compliments.)

1323 (1906).

O father, after we left you we passed the night at Jol-Madran. Early at dawn we received news that the Juberi have fired on the people at Dakim and carried away the kat. Now we have left you, and we have no knowledge of this affair. Do not think of anything in regard to us or entertain any suspicion at all. Now, whatever order you will pass in respect to the Haushabis, even the smallest, we shall abide by it. Your cause and ours against a Haushabi or Subaihi is one, no matter what happens in case our respect is affected. We shall never waver from any order you will issue. Thousands salute to you and those at your place and our brothers.

Inclosure 24 in No. 55.

*Ahmed Ba Haidara to Sultan Sir Ahmed Fudhli.*

(After compliments.)

[Undated.]

WE inform you regarding the raiders, whom you require us to find out as to who they were—that they were the Juberi, viz., Shahna, Salah-bin-Saleh, and seven others. Yesterday they entered Al-Khanduk. They state that this year would be a memorable year, either it shall end against the Horkat (Nobat Dakim) or themselves. Our father, Abdul Majid, ordered us to spend the night at Um-Al Khoyut, and we obeyed the same. We inform you regarding the ammunition; we have used the ammunition we had, and we searched in the box but found no Martini-Henry ammunition. Please, O master, send us ammunition for the two guns with Muhammad Jami.

We are your children and under your obedience.

Inclosure 25 in No. 55.

*Sultan Sir Ahmed Fudhli to Major-General Mason.*

(After compliments.)

25 Al K'ida, 1323 (January 20, 1906).

WE inform your honour that the Subaihis' provocations and animosity for us have been continuous, while both you and we are kind to them. Your good treatment towards them is incessant, so are we doing the same; but they, on the contrary, kill and plunder on the routes, and within your and our limits. We have along represented to the former Residents of Aden and applied for the assistance of Government for their punishment, but to no avail; except that you have once replied us that there were no sufficient grounds for their punishment. If you will refer to the outrages committed by the Subaihis in the past, up to the present time, you will find more sufficient grounds than necessitating the punishment of the Subaihis generally, as each and every tribe had committed several outrages and acts of murder and plunder on the borders and routes. Latterly the Juberi have fired on the camp at Nobat Dakim without any right. That tranquillity of Lahej and its people and the peace on the routes will be useful and of considerable advantage to you and your subjects and equally to us. We have been referring to you and your predecessors the misdeeds committed by the abused Subaihis, but we find that you have not paid any attention to them. We have a Treaty with you, concluded on the 18th January, 1839, to the effect that if any attack on Lahej or the Abdali tribe, or upon Aden and the British troops, we and you shall jointly take action against the aggressor. Please refer to the said Treaty No. 35. We pray your honour and your glorious Government to consider about punishing these offenders, to totally put an end to this disturbance and cause peace on the routes and all the limits, to prevail and become free of the Subaihis' outrages.

Inclosure 26 in No. 55.

*Government of Bombay to Major-General Mason.*

(Confidential.)

Bombay, February 9, 1906.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of the correspondence ending with your letter dated the 28th January, 1906, regarding the attack on the British post at Nobat Dakim by the Juberi clan of the Subaihi tribe.

2. With reference to the application by the Abdali Sultan for assistance mentioned in paragraph 6 of your letter, I am to desire you to reply to him immediately to the following effect, viz., that the book from which he quotes Treaty No. 35 is historical, and therefore still contains the Agreement of 1839, but that he must be aware that he has no right to quote it, for his forefathers repudiated it as soon as they had bound themselves by its terms; that the British Government no longer recognize it, but that they recognize later Treaties concluded when the Abdali had come to realize the advantages which accrued from a closer relationship with the British Government; and that Government have no doubt that he, as our friend, will in due course discharge the obligations undertaken in Articles VI and X of the Treaty of the 7th March, 1849, and in consideration of which he draws his stipend under Article XI thereof.



3. As regards paragraph 4 of your letter under acknowledgment, I am to say that it appears to Government that the attack on the post at Nebat Dakim does not seem to have been directed against the British Government. It may be that the assailants were instigated by the Hausbahi Sultan; but however that may be, if the Abdali Sultan wishes to proceed against the Subahis and bases his request for moral or material support on more solid grounds than he has done in the present instance, and also can show a good cause of offence, the matter will receive the earnest consideration of his Government.

[10392]

No. 56.

*Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 26.)*

(No. 179.)

Sir,

Constantinople, March 19, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to report that I learn from a despatch recently received from His Majesty's Consul at Basorah, that Yusuf-el-Ibrahim, the prime instigator of the attack on Koweit in 1902, is reported to have died near Hayil in January last.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

[10403]

No. 57.

*Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 26.)*

(No. 189. Confidential.)

Sir,

Constantinople, March 20, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the despatch No. 92 of the 1st instant, in which you were so good as to ask for my observations on a letter from the India Office, inclosing correspondence relative to the projected visit of the Wahabi Amir to the Pirate Coast and to Muscat in the spring.

While I quite concur in the view of the Secretary of State for India that serious complications would ensue should the Amir succeed in establishing his ascendancy over the Trucial Chiefs and Muscat, and that it would be well to convey to him a warning that his action in those parts must be limited by respect for our engagement with the tribes with which we have Treaties, I am disposed to think that such warning will be more effective if conveyed directly rather than through the Sheikh of Koweit or the Sultan of Muscat.

As regards Moubarak, it seems fairly certain that, in view of the more friendly relations which have recently been established between him and the local Turkish authorities of Basorah, the Porte would at once get news of our communication to Abdul Aziz, and would in all probability take steps to neutralize its effect. I would therefore suggest, for the consideration of His Majesty's Government, that our warning would be more effective if it could be arranged that a vessel of war should meet Abdul Aziz at one of the places along the coast which he proposes to visit, and he were given clearly to understand that no tampering with the engagements and Conventions of the Trucial Chiefs will be allowed.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

[10543]

No. 58.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 26.)*

Sir,

India Office, March 24, 1906.

IN continuation of my letter of the 22nd ultimo, on the subject of the reported intention of the Wahabi Amir to visit the Pirate Coast, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to request that you will draw the attention of Secretary Sir E. Grey to the telegram from the Viceroy on the subject of the 15th instant and to the letter from Major Cox to the Government of India of the 4th ultimo.

Subject to Sir E. Grey's concurrence, Mr. Morley proposes to authorize the

Government of India to instruct Major Cox to warn the Trucial Chiefs that, in view of the general unrest, prejudicial to our commercial interests on the Coast, which would result from intrigues between them and the Emir Abdul Aziz-bin-Saood, the Government of India would not view such proceedings with indifference.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[10128]

No. 59.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 29, 1906.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir Edward Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, stating that the Government of India propose to make a small advance of 20,000 rupees to the Sultan of Muscat, repayable from his subsidy, without political conditions.

I am to state that, in the circumstances, Sir E. Grey concurs in Mr. Morley's view that there is no objection to the loan in question.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) E. GORST.

[10403]

No. 60.

*Foreign Office to India Office.*

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 31, 1906.

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 1st instant, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,\* regarding the projected visit of the Wahabi Amir to the Pirate Coast and Muscat.

It will be observed that Sir N. O'Connor is of opinion that any warning given to the Amir respecting his relations with the Trucial Chiefs and Muscat, will be more effective if conveyed to him directly rather than through the Sheikh of Koweit or the Sultan of Muscat, and I am to inform you that Sir E. Grey concurs in this view.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) E. GORST.